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30P

THE TIMES

No. 65,296

SATURDAY JUNE 17 1995

Court blow for the elderly

'Granny flats' to be charged council tax

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FAMILIES caring for elderly relatives will be forced to pay separate and additional council tax bills on their "granny flats" after a devastating High Court ruling.

The judgment was attacked yesterday by Age Concern as a slap in the face for thousands of carers who already save the Government huge sums in health and housing costs for the elderly.

The ruling by Mr Justice Ognall, on an appeal by the Inland Revenue, overturned decisions by some valuation offices and tribunals that granny flats should not be considered separate dwellings nor be subject to additional council tax bills.

In a further blow, family carers are likely to have to pay the tax retrospectively to its introduction on April 1, 1993, under the 1992 Local Government Act.

A spokeswoman for Age Concern said: "This will penalise people who are actively embracing the ethos of community care. It is grossly unfair because carers who are saving the Government bills in housing and health are being targeted."

"The back-tacking, too, is ridiculous. The worrying thing is that it is the older person who will be charged to pay the bills on the section of the property in which they are living. People will be horrified to learn they have to pay for three years of council tax. Old people will be severely worried."

In one extraordinary case settled by the High Court, a family in Norfolk claimed afterwards that the total tax outlay for their Band F house

and Band A granny flat would be more than that paid by the Queen for Sandringham House near by.

The ruling is also expected to apply to specially-adapted, self-contained accommodation for au pairs, servants and even older children of the family. It is understood, however, that granny flats which remain empty will not be subject to the tax.

The Inland Revenue was unable to provide a clear definition yesterday of what constitutes a granny flat or similar accommodation. Sources said it did not necessarily require a separate front-door or lavatory and bathroom. But it had to be "self-contained" and "constructed or adapted for use as separate living accommodation."

Welcoming the ruling on five test cases, a spokeswoman for the Inland Revenue said: "The valuation tribunals in these cases ruled that householders should pay council tax as on one property only. Other tribunals in other cases have thought differently and there has been a variety of decisions. Inland Revenue appealed on a point of law that such cases should be considered two properties because any building that is constructed or adapted for use as separate dwelling accommodation would be banded separately."

"The High Court ruled on a point of law. It was not asked to rule, or could not rule, on whether individual properties were separate or not. These cases will therefore be referred back to the valuation tribunals for a further hearing." But the Inland Revenue accepts that effectively the ruling means

that valuation tribunals will be forced into regarding granny flats as separate dwellings for the payment of council tax.

It is understood that whether or not an old person pays rent on a granny flat will have no bearing on his tax liability. Although the 1992 Local Government Act was Environment Department legislation, it was the Inland Revenue which went to court because valuation officers who determine bandings work for the Valuation Office Agency, which comes under the Inland Revenue umbrella.

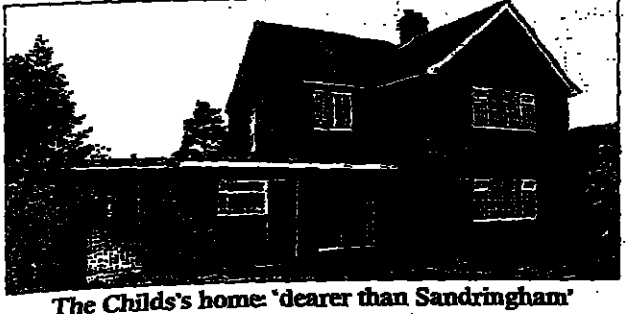
The High Court ruling was attacked by Christopher Childs, a lorry driver and his wife Gill, whose granny flat was one of the test cases.

The couple spent £8,000 six years ago building a ground-floor extension and converting a garage at their home in King's Lynn, Norfolk, to make an annexe for Mr Childs's parents. Local valuation officers insisted Band F council tax should be paid on the three-bedroom house and Band A on the one-bedroom flat used by Kathleen Childs, 70.

Mr Childs, 44, appealed to a valuation tribunal two years ago and got the annexe made tax exempt, but the Inland Revenue had the decision overturned in the High Court. The ruling means Mrs Childs senior, who pays no rent, will have to pay Band A council tax of £375, minus any single person discount, while her son pays £813 for his three-bedroom detached house classed as a Band F property worth between £120,000 and £160,000.

Mrs Childs said it meant their two council tax bills would be more than the Queen pays for Sandringham House, a Band H property worth more than £320,000 with annual tax of £1,107.

A political row was threatened last night and George Foulkes MP, joint chairman of the all-party Pensioners' Committee, said: "This is outrageous. It could set back care of the elderly for decades."



The Childs' home: 'dearer than Sandringham'

Leading article, page 19



Rob Andrew: delighted with his MBE on the eve of Rugby World Cup semi-final

Congratulations, Sir Cliff

By JILL SHERMAN AND EMMA WILKINS

THE enduring appeal of Cliff Richard over five decades in show business is rewarded today with a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

The 54-year-old singer and charity fund-raiser is joined in a raft of 1,055 men and women by England rugby player Rob Andrew, who becomes an MBE on the eve of England's semi-final in the Rugby World Cup.

Cliff Richard, the only British pop artist to have hit records in five consecutive decades, is honoured for his services to charity. Last month he led the crowds outside Buckingham Palace on VE Day with a version of his song *Congratulations*.

Show business is well represented this year with

awards to actor Alan Bates, singer Elaine Page, the actress and dyslexia campaigner Susan Hampshire, and comedian Norman Wisdom.

A third of the honours list, or 351 awards, was nominated by ordinary members of the public and 40 per cent (or 434 awards) were for voluntary service.

Rob Andrew, whose last-minute drop kick against Australia last weekend earned his team a place in the semi-finals against New Zealand, said he was delighted last night.



Cliff Richard: knighted for his charity work

"It's a great honour for the England team and rugby union," he said. "I am naturally delighted and the England boys will be very happy."

Other sportsmen to win awards include Peter Beardsley, the England football star, who becomes an MBE, and Everton Weekes, one of the "3Ws" who dominated the West Indian batting line-up in the 1950s, who becomes Sir Everton with his appointment as KCMG.

Honours list, pages 9-11
Peter Barnard, page 18

No change in policy, rebellious Tories told

By PHILIP WEBSTER IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR warned rebellious Conservative MPs yesterday that they could not save the Government by driving him out of office.

In an attempt to quell the rising tide of speculation at Westminster about a leadership challenge in the autumn, the Prime Minister declared that there was no "magic ingredient" for producing a Tory recovery.

At the same time, he openly rebuffed calls from the party's backbench 1922 Committee for policy changes, particularly on Europe. He told them he intended to stick to his policies.

His rebuke came after one of his most outspoken critics, John Carlisle, declared: "High Noon for the Prime Minister is probably approaching in days now rather than weeks."

Mr Major, frustrated that again he was finding himself dogged on a foreign trip by his difficulties at home, deliberately made himself available to tackle the issue head on.

Leaving his hotel for yesterday's opening session of the G7 summit in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Mr Major staged a "doorstep" interview for television and newspaper reporters ready to answer questions about events in London. This was a departure from his customary practice of trying to avoid domestic controversy when he is on the international stage.

It reflected the belief Mr Major and his advisers that he could not allow the turmoil inside the Tory parliamentary party to fester on without directly addressing it.

The previous evening, his exasperation with his divided party was clear when in a private conversation with his



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The Rugby World Cup: can they harpoon Jonah the Whale? Page 43



Simon Jenkins on a pilgrimage to the birthplace of Vermeer Page 18

PLUS
Nights in black satin: lingerie Magazine, page 40

Share option schemes axed

Both the Yorkshire electricity and water utilities are to scrap share option schemes for their directors. But Yorkshire Electricity revealed a 20.5 per cent rise in pay and perks for Malcolm Chatwin, the chief executive, whose salary of £190,000 is raised to almost £317,000 by bonuses. Page 23

Major rebuffs Kohl's protest over Brent Spar platform

By NICK NUTTALL, ROGER BOYES AND PHILIP WEBSTER

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, was sharply rebuffed by John Major yesterday when he protested about Shell's decision to dump the Brent Spar oil rig in the Atlantic.

The Prime Minister was "collared" by Herr Kohl after the world economy debate at the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations in Halifax, Nova Scotia. British officials said Mr Major had "politely listened" to Herr Kohl, but had maintained the British position "very firmly."

In the North Sea yesterday, two environmentalists were landed by helicopter in a final attempt to reoccupy the obsolete Brent Spar oil platform while Shell, the owner, held talks in London over growing

damage to its international image. The helicopter had to dodge spray from water cannon to drop the men on the rig and a third activist was hoisted off the deck. A spokeswoman for Greenpeace said the two men would attempt to delay the sinking of the rig for "as long as possible."

Today Greenpeace will intensify its campaign against the deep sea dumping of the platform by picketing 100 of Shell's 2,300 British filling stations. The move mirrors similar protests in Germany where sales of Shell petrol have reportedly fallen by a fifth in recent days.

A Shell filling station in Hamburg was firebombed yesterday. German police have been asked to watch the company's petrol stations but,

with 1,700 scattered throughout Germany, there is no full guarantee of security. "We are simply frightened," said a pump attendant in an almost empty forecourt in Düsseldorf. He and other petrol station managers were considering closing down at night because of the risk of attacks.

Leipzig yesterday became the first German city council to bar its civil servants from signing official supply contracts with Shell. Michael Müller, the Social Democrat environment spokesman, emphasised that the boycott should be extended to Esso, which runs the platform with Shell.

The protests are not limited to ecological groups: even the youth wing of Herr Kohl's

Bosnian troops cut the Serbs' lifeline

By STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE Bosnian Government Army dealt a psychological blow to the Serbs yesterday by attacking their main route between Sarajevo and their stronghold in Pale, and cutting off the road to a Serb corps headquarters at Lukavica in the capital's southwestern suburb.

The Bosnian Serbs shelled Sarajevo in retaliation for the second day of the mainly Muslim Government army offensive. Two blasts rocked the centre and a shell hit the city's main Kosevo hospital, killing two patients in its beds.

United Nations sources said the Serbs also launched two rockets on the city, flattening a building near the office of Alija Izetbegovic, the Bosnian President. By late afternoon, the city morgue said they had received 15 bodies, at least six

of them soldiers. UN sources highlighted the Muslim assault on the Pale-Lukavica road as a key development. Previous attempts to cut the route had failed.

Yesterday, Government forces broke through Serb lines on Mt Trebevic, a peak outside Sarajevo, and even heading on to the road even though the Serbs responded by firing tank shells. Lukavica, 2½ miles from the city centre, is the garrison town of the Bosnian Serb Army's Sarajevo Romanija corps.

UN sources said the cutting of the road from Pale would have a "psychological impact" on the Serbs. In Pale, all Serb reservists were ordered to report to their units.

US refuses to pay, page 17
Leading article, page 19

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ENGLAND v NEW ZEALAND
Rob Andrew, hero of England's victory over Australia, on the World Cup semi-final and John Hopkins on US Open golf in the 13-page Weekend Sport



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ROCK
Oliver Bennett on 25 years at Glastonbury, the mother of all rock festivals

THE TIMES AT 10p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

Labour 'will help families to care for the elderly'

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FAMILIES faced with having to sell off their homes to pay for nursing care for elderly parents can expect extra help from a Labour government. The party's document on health care commits Labour to setting up a top-level inquiry to look into the funding of care for the elderly, after growing concern about the escalating costs.

A Royal Commission will be appointed in the first year of a Labour government which will be expected to report within a year on care of the elderly and other vulnerable groups. Party sources said the inquiry would try to end the uncertainty for people faced with charges that posed a threat to their homes.

The move follows anxiety that government reforms have led to too much reliance on the private sector, with inadequate public provision. The new details of Labour's health plans were disclosed to *The Times* as the party faced a backlash over its decision to abolish key parts of the Tory NHS reforms.

In its report *Rebuilding the NHS*, due to be published next month, Labour proposes scrapping GP fundholding, getting rid of the internal

market and taking away much of the autonomy now given to NHS trusts. Trusts will no longer hold their own assets — buildings, equipment and land — which will return to health authority control. However they will manage their day-to-day affairs and hire their own staff.

They will also be given long-term rolling "Comprehensive Service Agreements" to provide a range of services, rather than the present one-year contracts. These agreements will contain "tough targets in both quality and output", according to the document.

The membership of both trust boards and health authorities will change to reflect community rather than commercial interest. Businessmen on Trust boards will be replaced with those from community and patient groups.

Mrs Bottomley said Labour's plans were very bad news for patients and criticised Margaret Beckett, the shadow health secretary. She said: "Mrs Beckett has pushed ahead with proposals which combine all the worst elements of old Labour socialism and new Labour fudge. These ideas won't wash and they won't work. The new NHS is working: with more patients treated than ever before and waiting times the lowest on record," said Mrs Bottomley.

"Labour must not be allowed to ruin it by inflicting turmoil in an ill-judged cause."

Margaret Beckett, the shadow health secretary, later rejected Mrs Bottomley's claims that she was trying to "turn the clock back in the NHS".

She said: "Labour will do nothing of the sort. She wants to pretend there will be a major upheaval when what Labour proposes is sensible reform. Our plans are based on competence and common sense, not the dogma and destabilisation of the Tories."



Beckett: "sensible"



Peter Krautzig examines the remains of the shop at his Shell station in the Volksdorf district of Hamburg

Major rebuffs Kohl protest over rig

Continued from page 1
Christian Democratic Union is urging its members to fill up with fuel elsewhere.

Greenpeace is also staging campaigns against Shell in Luxembourg, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Denmark. Hans Wijers, the Dutch Economics Minister, and Margreet de Boer, the Environment Minister, have declared that they will not buy Shell petrol.

The British Government was bombarded with criticism from German ministers over

the Brent Spar oil rig. Tony Nelson, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, was taken aside by Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, and Gunther Rexrodt, the Economics Minister, during a session of finance ministers and given what one official described as a "severe going-over".

Mr Major was, however, planning to tell Herr Kohl that there had been a very full study of the environmental impact of the decision. The Government believed that the

way chosen by Shell to deal with the rig was the one that would produce the least harmful effect on the environment.

In a bid to diffuse the growing international row Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, held a briefing for Dutch and German journalists yesterday.

Officials at the Department of the Environment said they had evidence that the Brent Spar was warped and that it might break up in shallow waters if Shell tried to bring it ashore for recycling. This is

the option Greenpeace is demanding.

The rig, which is now 93 miles northwest of the Shetlands, is due to be dumped early next week at one of four government-approved sites.

Jurgens Ulrich of Greenpeace said: "The two men on the rig are preparing for a long stay. The Brent Spar is being towed at an average speed of two knots and we estimate it will arrive at the dump site at around 17.00 hours on Tuesday if the weather holds."

Heseltine vows loyalty to Major

Continued from page 1
fellow world leaders he was heard to concede that "I am a coalition government on my own."

The Prime Minister's impromptu press conference coincided with an attempt by Mr Major's dwindling band of right-wing allies to stop the bandwagon rolling for a Michael Heseltine takeover.

In a characteristically adroit BBC radio performance, the President of the Board of Trade proclaimed his loyalty

to Mr Major without upsetting the uneasy coalition of disaffected right-wingers and panicky moderates who are mobilising in his support.

In contrast to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, who infuriated the Euro-sceptics earlier this week by branding them "right-wing xenophobes", Mr Heseltine said it was "absolutely legitimate" for the executive of the 1922 Committee, as the voice of the parliamentary party, to request policy changes. Mr

Heseltine was also careful not to box himself in over a single currency. Asked if he could sit in a Cabinet that said never to a single currency, Mr Heseltine replied: "I am a member of John Major's Cabinet. He has set out the policies which we have all agreed. I am not prepared to deviate in any way from what the Prime Minister has said."

Michael Portillo, the right-wing standard bearer in any leadership contest, said he did not want a challenge to Mr

Major. If one arose, the Prime Minister would see it off and lead the party into the next election.

It was also disclosed yesterday that the 18-strong executive of the 1922 committee — the official voice of Conservative backbenchers — is expected to give final approval to the draft proposals for policy changes at its next meeting on Thursday. The main items in the package are demands for cuts in taxes and spending and help for home-owners.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hospital blood test secures conviction

A drink-driving case made legal history yesterday when a blood sample taken by hospital staff was used by police to secure a conviction. Scott Henderson, 20, was convicted at Reading Crown Court of causing death by dangerous driving on the evidence of a sample taken by doctors.

Henderson was unconscious for 10 days in hospital in Swindon after a crash in which his passenger was killed. When he recovered, officers asked his permission to test the hospital sample. He agreed and was found to be three times over the limit. He was sent a young offenders' institution for two years and disqualified for five years.

Tube strike ballot

London Underground train drivers' leaders decided yesterday to hold a ballot on strike action after delegates at Aslef's annual conference instructed the executive committee to reject a 2.75 per cent pay offer. Lew Adams, general secretary, said action on BR, whose drivers are already being balloted, and the Tube should be co-ordinated.

BBC disciplines crew

THE BBC has disciplined a television producer and a freelance reporter working for its satellite news channel BBC World after allegations that they faked scenes of urban decay for a report on the Italian city of Reggio Calabria. Local politicians said they had used tin cans, a condom and a syringe as props in a street scene.

Schoolboy killer freed

A schoolboy who killed his violent father to stop his mother being beaten was freed from court yesterday. The 15-year-old admitted the manslaughter of his father, a judo champion, after stabbing him with a carving knife. The boy was given a three-year supervision order by Cardiff Crown Court and sent on a supervised activity programme.

Stonehenge closed off

A special order giving police powers to stop New Age travellers or other groups from reaching Stonehenge to celebrate the summer solstice comes into effect tonight. The order, issued under the Criminal Justice Act, creates a four-mile exclusion zone. Wiltshire Police have cancelled leave and are keeping officers on standby until June 21.

\$700m fraud uncovered

Fraud detectives working with the FBI in Boston have seized forged gold and silver deposit certificates with a face value of more than \$700 million (£440 million). The certificates are being linked to possible frauds on American banks and were found by Northamptonshire officers at a house in the east of the county.

First woman trainer

The British Boxing Board of Control has granted a boxing trainer's licence to a woman for the first time. Babs Spear, 41, from Brunton, Devon, who is 5ft 2in, trains Richie Wenton, 27, a super bantamweight champion. She said: "I know I will be up against some animosity because I am a woman in a man's game."



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Prince's trail leads from English public school to Hebridean island

Museum's sleuths track down Young Pretender's tartan

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

EIGHT years of painstaking detective work by curators at the National Museum of Scotland have resulted in the tracing and reconstruction of the tartan worn by Bonnie Prince Charlie after his flight from Culloden.

The blue-green tartan, with red, black and yellow stripes, is different from any of those known today, which were introduced in the 19th century. It has been adopted as the official badge for the new Museum of Scotland.

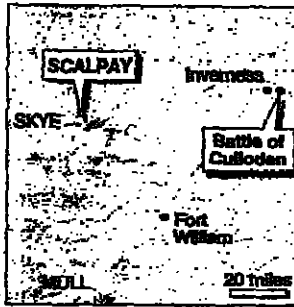
The authentication of the Prince's tartan led museum staff on a trail across Scotland. But it all started in England.

Hugh Cheape, the museum's Scottish curator, was asked in 1987 to authenticate a piece of tartan in the archives of Stonyhurst College in Lancashire.

"Initially I was sceptical as relics of this sort are always turning up at the museum. There was a piece of paper with the cloth stating it was part of a kilt left by Bonnie Prince Charlie on the island of Glass on April 30, 1746. That was interesting because it gave us a firm date."

Mr Cheape decided that the island must be the Hebridean island of Scalpay, known as Eilean Glas in Gaelic, and discovered that the Prince had sought shelter there with a taxman called Campbell.

There was also documenta-



ry evidence that the Prince had been given a "sute of cloaths" at the first house at which he arrived, dishevelled and bedraggled, after fleeing the battlefield of Culloden Moor where 2,000 Jacobite followers were slain on April 16. This was the home of the MacDonalds of Borrodale. Catriona MacDonald, who came from the clan MacGregor, welcomed the Prince into her home on the same day she learnt her eldest son had been killed in the battle.

She was aware of the consequences of harbouring Prince Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, but the rules of Highland hospitality ensured him a bed at her house. Several days after he left, government forces razed her house.

The Prince fled with his new clothes to the Hebrides. Mr Cheape said that although Campbell of Scalpay was a taxman and a probably a supporter of the Government, again the rules of Highland

hospitality prevailed. He was reported to the authorities by the minister on the island for harbouring the Prince but when the King's men arrived to arrest him they were unable to get off the boat. Campbell, threatening to "split them in twain", told the soldiers he was bound by the unwritten rules of hospitality to look after any man who came to his door in need.

The scrap of tartan is believed to be from the kilt given to the Prince by Catriona MacDonald and left at the house of Campbell. It was analysed by Dr Anita Quye of the museum's conservation unit who identified the dyes in the tartan using liquid chromatography and spectroscopy. All the dyes are natural ones used in the 18th century.

A reconstruction of the tartan has been made from Dr Quye's work. "It's not completely out of the ordinary but it does not match any of the other clan tartans we know, which is what you would expect if it were genuine," Mr Cheape said.

As he was finishing his research, Mr Cheape was sent a second scrap of the same tartan from a family in Southampton. It was from the same cloth as the original piece and with it was the identical note. It also proved to be authentic. "It came completely out of the blue and it was electrifying," Mr Cheape said.

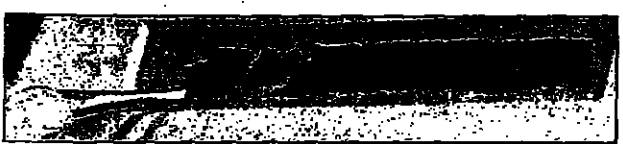
Today's clan tartans became fashionable in late Georgian and early Victorian times. But there is ample evidence that tartan or plaid has played an important part in Scottish dress since Roman times.

The turning point in its history was its prohibition from Culloden until 1782 when, largely due to the efforts of the Highland Society of London, the ban was lifted.

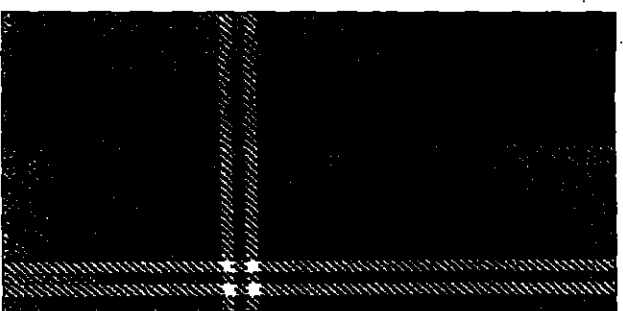
In 1815, the society wrote to clan chiefs and invited them to send a signed and sealed sample of their tartans to the society, and so a collection of clan tartan was formed.

The Prince's tartan, with the original fragments and other relics, goes on display in Edinburgh this week.

Leading article, page 19



The scrap of cloth dating from 1746 that was found at Stonyhurst, above, and the reconstructed tartan

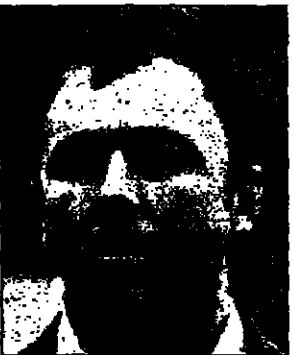


Casino loser is jailed for car-park rampage

A LORRY-DRIVER who lost heavily at a casino and took his revenge by driving his 40ft truck over every vehicle in the car park was jailed for 18 months yesterday (writes Lucy Berrington).

David Haughton, 30, careered round the car park, demolishing vehicles in a drunken fury after gambling away £7,000 in a year, Preston Crown Court was told. Lancashire police estimated the damage at over £100,000.

The court was told that Haughton had lost £800 over two nights last December at the casino on a Blackpool promenade. Samantha Birles, for the prosecution, said Haughton had been ejected from the premises by staff after asking another gambler to lend him money. He took a taxi to Fleetwood, where his



Haughton: lost £7,000

lorry was parked. He drank a bottle of wine, and then drove back to the casino.

Miss Birles said: "He was three times over the drink-drive limit. He drove into four cars and then proceeded around the car park, hitting

more. Some vehicles were shunted into others and some became trapped. In all, 24 were damaged."

Stephen Rothwell, for the defence, said Haughton had since joined Gamblers Anonymous. His behaviour had been a "cry for help".

Miss Birles said: "At first, he had thought of reversing the lorry through the casino kitchen window but did not want to be up on a manslaughter charge. Fortunately, he checked there was no one in the cars before he rammed them. He told police he thought he had hit 35 cars."

Haughton, of Fleetwood, who admitted recklessly intending to damage cars, damaging a heavy goods vehicle, drink-driving and driving without insurance, was disqualified for a year.

Woman loses leg blowing farewell kiss

By Jennai Cox

A WOMAN who fell under a train as she gave her boyfriend a goodbye kiss was on a life-support machine last night after having her right leg amputated at the hip.

Jennifer Dean, 33, tried to hold on to her boyfriend and run alongside the Cardiff train as it pulled out of Paddington station late on Thursday night. She slipped on the platform and fell underneath the train.

A doctor travelling on the train gave her emergency treatment on the track and administered pain killers before paramedics arrived. A surgeon was called to the scene but the woman was not operated on immediately. Miss Dean, who works for a charity in London, remained conscious throughout the rescue operation.

Sara Oladele, 27, a British Rail employee, said: "I could see the woman half lying on the track. It must have been agony."

"There were a lot of people standing around. I even heard some passengers complaining about the fact the train had been held up. I don't think they realised exactly what had happened."

A fire rescue team took 45 minutes to lift the carriage from the track while London Ambulance staff gave Miss Dean blood transfusions and anaesthetics. She was admitted to St Mary's Hospital early yesterday morning. Adrian

Fogarty, a member of St Mary's accident and emergency flying squad who was at the scene, said: "There was absolutely no hope of saving her leg. She probably does not know about it. I do not know if she will walk again. It is too early to say."

Her parents, Annette and John Dean, who live in York, were at her bedside. Miss Dean's boyfriend was also treated at the hospital for shock but has been discharged.

Inspector Kevin Walker of the British Transport Police said the train stopped within 30 yards after British Rail staff alerted the guard, but the woman's legs had already become trapped under a wheel of the InterCity train's second carriage.

The driver of the train was sent off duty immediately and is expected to receive counselling.

Great Western, which runs the track, and Great Western Trains have started inquiries into the accident which comes after similar incidents at Tisbury station and the Underground at Victoria last month. Strict procedures govern the signalling of trains leaving platforms, according to the train operators. Inquiries will be completed in about two weeks.

The Health and Safety Executive will consider further investigation once it has seen the report.



Bonnie Prince Charlie, who fled from Culloden Moor to the island of Scalpay



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High Court test case could cost councils £70 million

Disabled pensioners win community care battle

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

FIVE disabled pensioners won the first round in their fight to force the Government to increase community care funding when the High Court ruled yesterday that a council broke the law when it withdrew services from them simply to save money.

The test case is likely to cost local authorities across the country about £70 million at a time when they claim they are £200 million short of the money they need to fund community care. "We are going to take this judgment and use it to beat loudly on Virginia Bottomley's door to demand more money," said Derek Vizor, 62, the wheelchair-bound former paratrooper who is chairman of the pressure group Voice of the Disabled, which brought the case against Gloucestershire County Council.

"This is the first step in a long ladder," he said. "We have to use emotive issues to make Mrs Bottomley understand that there must be proper provision for the disabled. Unless there is, people will die if services they rely on are withdrawn because there is no money to fund them."

In his judgment yesterday Lord Justice McCowan said the council had broken the law in withdrawing agreed care services from the five people without reassessing the need for them. "Once they have decided that it is necessary to make the arrangements, they are under an absolute duty to make them," he said. "Once under that duty, resources do not come into it."

However, he understood the

position of Gloucestershire, which had argued that because its government grant had been cut by £3 million it had been forced to make savings in community care. "In assessing need, those doing so will inevitably compare the extent of the disabilities concerned in order to arrive at who needs help more. That comparative exercise is obviously related to resources. Indeed it seems, to me that a local authority faces an impossible task unless they can have regard to the size of the cake."

The judge said that resources therefore could be taken into account by an authority when it assessed or reassessed the need of a disabled person for help. "A balancing exercise must be carried out, assessing the particular needs of that person in the context of the needs of others and the resources available."

Derek Vizor, Gloucestershire's director of social services, said the judgment meant he would have to restore services to the 1,500 disabled people in the county who had had them withdrawn and then reassess their needs at a cost of £40 each. "That will cost around £400,000 I do not have. I would rather spend money on services than on reassessments, but we have no choice."

"People with disabilities are rightly demanding that their needs are met and I have only a certain amount of money. Community care has become a victim of its own success, with more and more people seeking their entitlements."



Derek Vizor, chairman of the disability pressure group that took Gloucestershire council to court

He added that the council hoped the case would draw attention to "the need for proper community care funding". John Ransford, of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said the judgment was consistent with ministry guidance on how community care should operate. "You have to make sure you

take resources into account when taking decisions," he said. "The trouble is that community care is not a cheap option and pushes up both expectations and costs. There is real concern that there simply aren't enough funds to provide a proper service and this is something we will be discussing with government."

Scientists hopeful of one-shot diabetes therapy

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

CANADIAN doctors are planning to inject diabetic patients with cells from the pancreas of pigs after experiments on animals showed that a single such injection can dispense with the need for daily insulin shots.

Dr David Zhou of the University of Toronto told the US Endocrine Society's annual meeting in Washington that diabetic monkeys had been able to survive for two years without insulin after being injected with pig cells from the islets of Langerhans, the organs that makes insulin. Transplants of human islet cells have been tried in the past but supplies are limited. The Toronto team is sufficiently encouraged by the pig experiments to propose extending the research to a small group of volunteers in Canada and China. "We are very confident," Dr Zhou said. There may be 175,000 people in Britain with insulin-dependent diabetes.

To prevent the monkeys' immune system reacting against the pig cells, the implants were enclosed in a membrane made of a seaweed extract before being injected into the stomach. Blood tests showed that the monkeys started to produce insulin.

The American Diabetes Association was cautious. "It's encouraging," Dr Richard Kahn, its chief scientist, said, "but it's not unusual for these things to run into problems. I think we're some time away from saying we've got it."

Lords may rule on £390m 'social life' benefits

By CATHERINE MILTON
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is studying a judgment by the Court of Appeal that could add as much as £390 million to the annual social security bill, which already costs each taxpayer more than £15 a day.

The Court of Appeal ruled on Wednesday that there was no legal reason why a deaf woman, Rebecca Halliday, 20, a nursery nurse, could not claim state help towards the cost of social activities. The ruling clears the way for similar claims from disabled

people who need help to enjoy normal social lives.

The Social Security Department is considering an appeal to the Lords. A spokeswoman for the department said: "We are still looking at the judgment. The policy aim of the benefits is to contribute to some of the extra care costs of severely disabled people, not to compensate for the disability."

David Thomas, legal officer of the Child Poverty Action Group, which backed Ms Halliday, said: "As a society we have a responsibility to help disabled people live as full and

enriching lives as possible. Living with a disability is an expensive business."

The Social Security Department has been trying to fend off a series of such claims since early last year. In April last year the Lords ruled that Eric Mallinson, a 50-year-old blind man, was entitled to claim £31.20 a week for general help with everyday activities. The Government responded by issuing guidelines that benefits officials should disregard claimants' needs for financial help with domestic, social and recreational activities. Ms Halliday appealed to the Social Security Commissioner who ruled that social activi-

ties could be taken into account, and now the Government has been defeated in the Court of Appeal.

A spokeswoman for the department said that more than 1,600 people had claimed benefit after last year's rulings. She said the department had no estimate of the numbers now likely to be eligible. Welfare rights campaigners are wary of giving out figures for fear of prompting a toughening of the law. But they admit that if only the 100,000 blind people and 160,000 deaf people who are conservatively estimated to be eligible claim the benefit, the total bill will be £390 million a year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man killed wife with tea towel

A former police chief inspector strangled his wife with a tea towel after 42 years of marriage. Sidney Blamires, 64, of Northallerton, North Yorkshire, was ordered to be detained indefinitely at a psychiatric hospital for killing his wife Eva, 63.

Store fined

A Comet store in Brislington was fined £15,000 by Bristol magistrates after a display oven fell on a girl, 3, who suffered severe bruising. Three weeks later other ovens had not been secured.

Strapped for cash

A man was arrested as he boarded an aircraft at Gatwick bound for Jamaica with £106,500 strapped to his legs. Customs officers believe the cash, in US dollars, came from drug dealing.

Canal plan sunk

Plans to restore the Basingstoke Canal from Basing House to Greywell at a cost of up to £30 million have been dropped by Basingstoke council after protests from people living on the route.

WEEKEND

The telephone number for Le Manoir de Gressy near Euro Disney, France, is 00331 60266800, fax 00331 602 64546 (Weekend, page 19, today). The weekend package is £900 (£117 per night for two people sharing a room including breakfast and dinner. The hotel will now accept stays of one night at the weekend rate rather than a minimum of two. During the week the charges range between £750 (£97) and £950 (£122) a night for bed and breakfast.

CAR 95

The heading on the graphic on page 10 of Car 95 should read "The hills and vales of West Wessex", not Sussex.

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Lawyers are going to have to change, says Lord Woolf in his reform of 'too expensive' civil hearings

Judges told to deliver cheap and fast justice

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A RADICAL change in the approach of judges and lawyers was called for by Lord Woolf, the law lord, yesterday to remedy the huge problems of cost, delay, complexity and inequality in the civil justice system.

In an interview with *The Times* to coincide with publication of his landmark report on civil justice, Lord Woolf signalled the need for what amounts to a cultural revolution to open access to the civil courts.

"The key to the whole thing is to recognise that justice is not an abstract quality; it has got to be proportionate — within the means of the parties — and expeditious."

The present "unmanaged" system had become too expensive and complicated; took too long and was unfair. Thousands of people were denied access to the courts because the cost was disproportionate to their claims, he said. For judges, the reforms will mean a fundamentally new approach, heralded last year by the Lord Chief Justice in guidelines to judges on case management. Judges will become the driving force in the new system, taking control of cases away from lawyers and litigants.

At the heart of Lord Woolf's proposals — the biggest shake-up in civil justice for more than a century — is the notion of judges as active "trial managers", dictating the pace of cases.

But the change is not just one of attitude. Judges will have new or wider powers to knock litigants' heads together and encourage settlement, or strike out unworthy actions or settle cases summarily. New rules will make judges responsible for controlling costs; for keeping cases moving and ensuring "equality between the litigants".

The rules would make clear that judges must "look at justice in a pragmatic way and realise that if it is too slow or too complicated it is not just", Lord Woolf said. "I believe judges will want to do this. If their responsibilities are set out clearly, they will do it."

From the outset, judges will take charge of managing a case, state what they want to hear and not allow unnecessary steps — for instance

disclosure of further documents — that are not justified by the claim in dispute. Lawyers, too, will have to change, Lord Woolf added. Hourly rates of City of London lawyers were higher than those in New York, although they might use fewer lawyers on a particular task. Overall, the British system compares with America's when it comes to cost.

"Lawyers are going to have to change... to become more cost-conscious," he said. "I do believe there are cheaper ways of doing things than we do at present. If the court takes control, we will be able to do things in a cheaper way."

The aim is to keep the best of the adversarial system, while getting away from the tradition in which "people put all their resources into the fight and leave no stone unturned" for fear of endangering the final victory.

A key feature is the new simple fast-track system, where claims of up to £10,000 will be heard within 20-30 weeks and costs capped. With the expanded small claims court (up to £3,000), these two will take on "by far the majority of the claims" and people will obtain "what I believe they want: speedy resolution of the issues at reasonable cost."

Curbing costs is another key principle. Lord Woolf wants people to be told likely costs at the start and as they go. Costs can be more than 100 per cent of the sum at issue, and are correspondingly higher with small claims, he said.

"This is very important. I want clients to be in a better position to assess the cost they want to pay... there is no reason why they can't be told the cost for conducting a piece of litigation."

He is also tackling the inequality of power between the parties, where people find themselves dragged into court to defend claims at huge cost. Both plaintiff and defendant will now have a chance to make an offer to settle through a payment into court.

If the other side refuses, and then loses, they will end up paying the costs with interest. Critics have said the reforms, particularly those to help "do it yourself" claim-



Lord Woolf: "If justice is too slow or too complicated it is not just. There are cheaper ways of doing things"

ants will clog up the courts. But yesterday Lord Woolf rejected that view. Many more cases than now will settle before trial, he predicted.

Judges would encourage litigants to look to other ways of settling disputes such as mediation or alternative dispute resolution: will seek to encourage earlier settlement; and if cases did reach trial, judges would have powers to strike out unworthy actions and penalise unreasonable litigants through costs.

They will also be able to give summary judgment on a case or one part of it, leaving only the "core" to go to trial. "I don't want to get a situation where, if it something goes wrong, people litigate," he said. "But if people have a genuine claim, they must be able to pursue it."

With Lord Mackay's clear backing he predicts that he will succeed in tackling civil justice where others have failed. Lawyers now accepted that "we can't go on as we are at present". Second, he was "fortunate" in having power to draft the rules to bring the reforms into effect. "I am confident that in a few years the system will be very different from what it is now."

Mackay pledges action on fast-track courts system

By FRANCES GIBB

THE biggest shake-up in civil justice for more than a century won swift government backing yesterday when the Lord Chancellor signalled immediate action on some key reforms.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern said he would be raising the limit on the small claims arbitration procedure to £3,000, enabling thousands more disputes to be dealt with more simply and cheaply.

The Lord Chancellor, commenting on the landmark report on civil justice by Lord Woolf published yesterday, also said he favoured the proposed "fast track" for disputes of up to £10,000, where costs will be capped, trials heard in 20-30 weeks and hearings fixed at three hours.

The proposals envisage a radical overhaul of the civil courts, with the creation of a post of Head of Civil Justice and a three-track system for cases depending on complexity. Judges are to become trial managers, taking charge of cases from the outset and imposing timetables; and solicitors would have to inform clients of likely costs as the case proceeds.

Lord Woolf, who is midway through a two-year review of civil justice, said: "Our system of justice is not equipped to meet the needs of ordinary citizens or of business as we approach the 21st century. It is

KEY PROPOSALS

- Small claims court expanded to take claims up to £3,000
- Fast track for cases up to £10,000 including personal injury claims with capped costs and fixed hearings
- New multi-track for cases above £10,000, providing "hands-on" management by teams of judges for the heaviest cases
- New post of Head of Civil Justice to run all civil courts as single system. Post to be filled by senior judge
- More use of technology, with laptops for all judges and video conference facilities
- Judges to be trial managers controlling timetables and disclosure of documents
- Incentives for early settlement including "plaintiff's offer" and referral to alternative dispute procedures
- Solicitors to inform clients of charges as bill mounts

too slow, too complicated and above all, too expensive." He added: "A system which pays more in lawyers' fees than in compensation to accident victims is indefensible."

The report drew a broad welcome. Lord Mackay said it contained "some imaginative and far-reaching proposals". "I am anxious to maintain the momentum generated by Lord Woolf's review", he added.

But Lord Mackay, who appointed Lord Woolf to inquire into civil justice last March, made clear that he would not first want discussions "at the earliest possible opportunity" with the judiciary, who were to assume a key role in "taking matters forward". The report is aimed at tackling the costs, delays and complexities of the present system and at ending the culture where

litigation is "too often seen as a battlefield where no rules apply" and "questions of expense, delay, compromise and fairness have a low priority".

"The consequence is that expense is often excessive, disproportionate and unpredictable; and delay is frequently unreasonable," the report says. In 1994, High Court cases took on average 163 weeks in London and 189 outside to reach trial. In the county courts the figure was 80 weeks. For the majority of cases, such figures are "unacceptable," the report says. The report recommends a three-track civil system with a single entry point, headed by a senior judge in a new post of a Head of Civil Justice.

At present there is no single person co-ordinating what happened in the civil courts,

from the High Court through to the county courts. Lord Woolf said yesterday. Most cases will either go through the expanded new small claims court (up to £3,000) or into the new fast track (up to £10,000) where there will be no calling of expert witnesses.

There will be a multi-track for cases over £10,000, to be handled by teams of judges, with the district judge acting as team manager and allocating cases to the right level of court. More help will be given to litigants in person (IDY claimants) through advice bureaux and court staff; and judges will be encouraged to help them to present their cases.

The report wants more use of technology. Lord Woolf accepted this would be costly in the short term but in the long term would make for "colossal" savings. "If you go to the county court, the way documents are handled is Kafkaesque," he said. "Files spilling documents out — staff forced to try and cope — and all this can be recorded on computer."

A key principle is to encourage settlement. Both parties will be able to make offers to settle at any stage, relating to the whole case or one issue; judges will have powers to settle cases or issues without a full trial; and will have to advise on alternative ways of resolving disputes, such as mediation.

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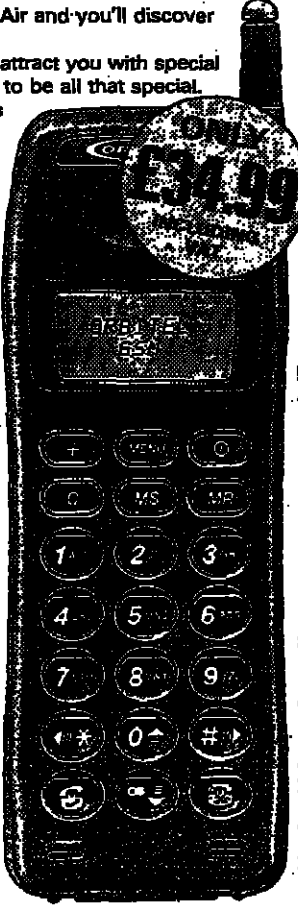
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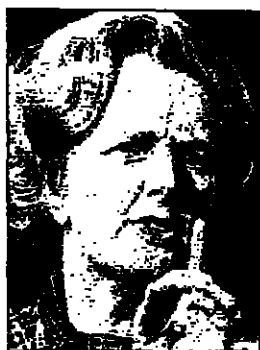


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News Review, The Sunday Times tomorrow

An evening of socialising unites Protestants and Catholics across city's peace lines

Clubmen oil the wheels of friendship in Belfast

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE handshakes were a little awkward and the stilted smiles betrayed the men's trepidation at venturing across Belfast's peace lines. By the end of the evening, Protestants and Catholics had to be prised apart after sinking their differences in a night of friendly drinking.

In a move unthinkable a few months ago, hundreds of men from loyalist and republican heartlands of Belfast crossed the city on Thursday night as part of Clubs Together Day. Protestant welders from the Harland and Wolff shipyard in East Belfast played football against Catholics in West Belfast; Catholics from the hardline Ardoyne area of North Belfast travelled less than a mile to a social club off the loyalist Shankill Road.

All the men, from unemployed teenagers in tatty clothes to leading community members sporting club blazers, were determined to make the evening work. Some of their more sceptical friends stayed at home but those who turned out described the eve-

ning as a brave way of breaking down barriers.

At closing time at the loyalist Mountainview Social Club off Shankill Road, some of the Catholic visitors were reluctant to leave as their bus driver called to take them back to Ardoyne. One elderly man stumbled round the bar to say goodbye to his new drinking companions; others embraced each other warmly.

Raymond Doherty, from Ardoyne, who drank in a corner with Protestants, said the evening was "brilliant". Asked whether he had ever travelled the 1,000 yards from his club, the Crumlin Star, to Mountainview, he said: "Are you kidding? I would only have come here in a bullet-proof car before the ceasefire."

Harry Majorey, the chairman of Mountainview, said he hoped the new friendships would last. "We were a wee bit apprehensive. But everything went well."

The socialising between Protestants and Catholics from the Shankill and Ardoyne was all the more

remarkable because of the mutual loathing between the two communities that plunged to new depths after the IRA bombing on Shankill Road in October 1993.

However Charlie Butler, who lost three relatives in the bombing, was eager to take part in the cross-community socialising. Mr Butler, 41, travelled from the Shankill to the Catholic Dockers' Club with a group of friends who included Hugh Smyth, the former Lord Mayor of Belfast and leader of the Progressive Unionists, the fringe loyalist party.

The evening was more subdued than the noisy drinking at the Mountainview, although Catholics cheered as Mr Smyth sang two soothing love songs. Mr Butler said: "By being here we are taking a small step. I didn't think I would see this even two weeks ago. But hopefully some good will come out of it."

At the Donegal Celtic Football Club in republican West Belfast, the warmth of the evening did nothing to dimin-

ish the players' determination on the field as the home team took on the Harland and Wolff Welders' Club. The welders lost 2-0 but only after a brave display against a team with an impressive record in Belfast's football leagues.

John Davidson, treasurer of the welders' club and chairman of the Northern Ireland Federation of Clubs, which organised the evening, described it as a "shot in the arm" for the peace process. He added: "This has been a great opportunity to bring down barriers on the estates and in people's minds. It has been an adventurous undertaking and people must be congratulated for their bravery."

At the bar, a group of Harland and Wolff welders joked with local Catholic teenagers. The welders, who were kitted out in their club's dark blazers, looked slightly out of place next to the teenagers in jeans and T-shirts. But as Thomas Wilson, one of the Harland and Wolff men, said: "We've had a great banter and joke with the lads."



Old enmities were set aside around a few pints at the Mountainview Social Club

By-election victor calls for Union to be redefined

BY NICHOLAS WATT

ROBERT MCCARTNEY, the independent Unionist who won the North Down by-election, declared yesterday that his victory would change the political landscape of Northern Ireland. The new MP, who campaigned against the Anglo-Irish framework document on an anti-sectarian ticket, said his election showed the need for the Union to be redefined.

In a victory speech in the early hours of yesterday morning Mr McCartney, who stood as a United Kingdom Unionist, said: "The Union must be redefined so that it is no longer an exclusive Union for some, and from which others are excluded. It must be a Union for everyone in which that cherished phrase, civil and religious liberty, must become civil and religious liberty for all and not just for some."

His victory will have unsettled both the Government and the Ulster Unionists after his campaign claims that an indifferent Government wants to disengage from Northern Ireland and an outdated and weak Unionist leadership has failed to prevent the slide. After his speech Mr McCartney, 59, launched a stinging attack on James Moynihan for failing to challenge government policy on Ulster. Asked if the Ulster Unionist leader should resign, Mr McCartney said: "I would hope that the message conveyed by this result will have an accelerating part to play in that process."

Mr Moynihan, 74, has come under strong pressure within his party to resign since the Government ignored his

objections to February's framework document.

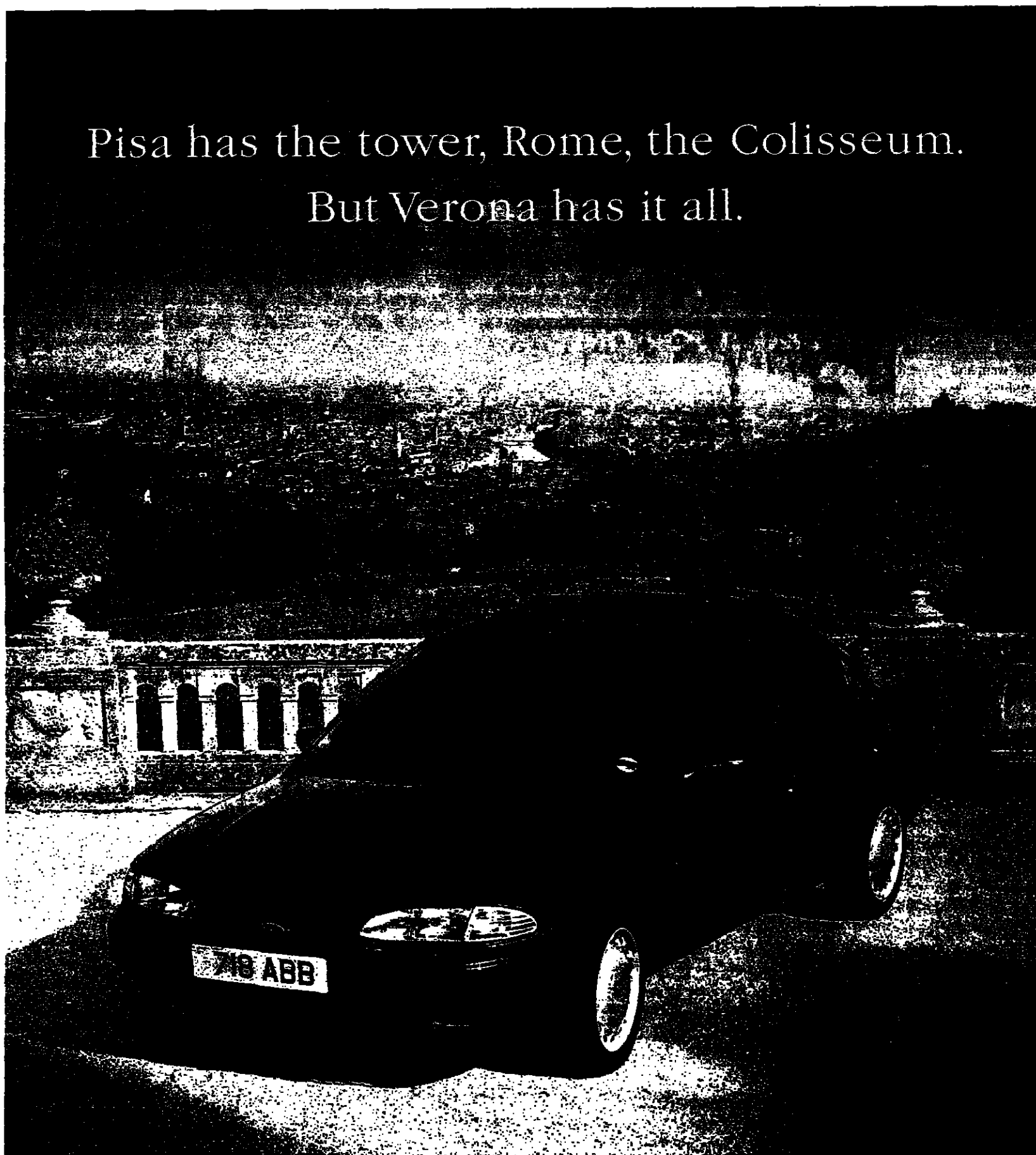
Mr Moynihan, whose candidate Alan McFarland came second in the poll, said the people of North Down had voted for Mr McCartney because it had suffered less from terrorists' attacks. The result was a devastating blow to the Conservatives, whose vote collapsed by nearly 30 percentage points.

DOWN NORTH
R McCartney (UK Unionist) 10,124
McFarland (Cons) 7,232
Sir O Napier (All) 6,970
A Chambers (Ind Unionist) 2,170
S Seddon (Cons) 333
Al Brown (Free Para Law Group) 106
C Carter (Ulster's Ind Voice) 101
J Anderson (Nat Law Party) 100
Majority 2,892
Turnout 58.7%
1992: Killeader (Pop U) 19,205;
Kennedy (C) 14,371; Morrow (All-
ance) 5,811; Vitty (DUP) 4,414;
Wilmot (Natural Law Party) 255.



McCartney: unsettling

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Ten-mile traffic jams and unseasonal weather conspire to give Britain the summertime blues

Motorists facing 'absolute chaos' in M5 roadworks

By Jonathan Prynn
Transport Correspondent

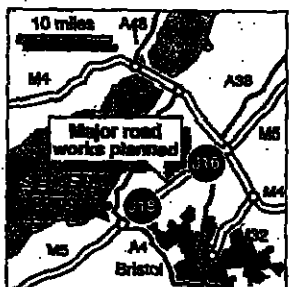
THE main route to the West Country is likely to be clogged by massive traffic jams this summer as work starts on Britain's biggest motorway roadworks.

Motoring organisations have warned holidaymakers of "absolute chaos" on the M5, the main route to Devon and Cornwall, from now until the end of July. The work is unlikely to be finished by the time schools break up.

Local businesses fear that the crucial summer tourist trade could be plunged back into crisis after picking up last year. Nine out of ten visitors to the region travel by car.

Mick Campbell, a spokesman for the Highways Agency, said the tarmacadam had to be kept at a high temperature before being laid, making it impossible to carry out the work at more convenient times of year.

The work affects a ten-mile stretch of the motorway near Bristol. Two-and-a-half miles are being resurfaced at the same time as work continues on the £150 million link roads to the second Severn Crossing.



The maze of roadworks has already been blamed for a 20-mile jam at Easter.

The contractors will be fined £7,000 a day for finishing late and the same amount in bonuses if the work is completed ahead of schedule.

Simon Hawkins of AA Roadwatch warned motorists during the day that there was no way they could avoid the jams. The alternative was to travel at night when the motorway was at its least busy.

Fifteen motorway service stations were sold by the Government yesterday in a deal that could revolutionise the quality of food and facilities available to long-distance drivers. More than 600 investors ranging from City institu-

tions to private individuals made inquiries about buying the freeholds, of which 40 submitted formal bids.

The contracts were awarded to the highest bidders by the Highways Agency yesterday, but the buyers' identities were not revealed.

The sites are currently operated on 35-year leases. John Organ of Healey and Baker, the estate agents who handled the sale, said the values of the freeholds could quadruple over that period.

Last month a Department of Transport survey found that motorists thought that British motorway services were expensive and of poor quality.

Burger King hamburger bars have recently been introduced in Granada stations and McDonald's is holding talks with Forte. The first American-style diner opened earlier this year at Junction 10 of the M42 and a brasserie is planned for Leigh Delamere services on the M4.

The 15 stations are all in the North of England, on the M6, A1 (M), M62, M61, M42 and M1. Fifteen stations in the south will be sold later in the year. The final 17 will be sold in due course.



Hardly cricket: hardy spectators wrapped up warm and made sure they took their Thermos flasks to watch Northamptonshire against Essex at Luton yesterday

Sunseekers head south in season of discontent

By Harvey Elliott, Travel Correspondent

ONE of the gloomiest early summers on record continues unabated with more rain and cloud forecast for this weekend.

Average temperatures in London have been at least eight degrees below normal so far this month — 10.5C on average instead of the normal 19C — and the sun has shone for only an average of 2½ hours a day compared with the normal June average of 6½ hours.

There is no immediate prospect of any improvement, according to the London Weather Centre. "It really is hardly summer weather at all," a senior forecaster said. "It is certainly not a summer for the faint hearted."

Today most of the country will have wind rain and tomorrow there will be showers almost everywhere. It will continue to be cool, except in the West where the best of the weather has been concentrated so far this month.

The dank conditions seem likely to go on for the foreseeable future as squalls rise in the Atlantic. It has proved too much for many who have flocked into travel agents asking to be flown to the sun.

Holiday companies say that sales have shot up since the

poor weather began. "Since the beginning of June we have sold 50 per cent more holidays than last year," Lucinda Hicks, marketing director of Portland Holidays, said. "Poor weather at home is the main reason — people are desperate for some sun."

Many have taken an impulsive week off work and travel agents say they often do not care where they are going, as long as it is away from the cloud and rain.

Those who have decided to go away can find many cut-price offers. The industry is desperate to off-load almost three million unsold summer packages for which it has paid. That is why so many bargains are being advertised so close to the peak season.

Bookmakers, who can often be more accurate than even the most sophisticated weather forecaster obviously know a thing or two about the weather for the rest of the month at least. William Hill has cut the odds on rain interrupting play every day on the Centre Court during Wimbledon fortnight from 50-1 to 33-1 and lengthened the odds about its remaining completely dry from 12-1 to 16-1.

Forecast, page 22

Park rape victim returns

By Lin Jenkins

THE young mother raped at knifepoint after being forced into Regent's Park revisited the scene with police yesterday.

Detectives believe the attack took place near an open-air theatre where there was a press preview of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The 24-year-old secretary, who lives with her husband and three-year-old son in east London, was abducted from a telephone box at Great Portland Street Underground station as she tried to alert a colleague that she thought she was being followed by two men.

One suspect was described as black, aged in his mid-to-late 20s, 5ft 7in, slim, wearing a black jacket and dark corduroy trousers. The other was Asian, possibly Mauritian, in his early 20s, about 5ft 8in, wearing a light denim jacket and jeans.

Police said at least one person had come forward who had seen the woman being abducted at about 5.30pm.

Farm loses claim over cow deaths

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

A CHEMICAL waste disposal company was yesterday cleared of poisoning a prize herd of dairy cattle kept on a farm near one of its incinerators.

The landmark ruling in the High Court, dismissing a £1.5 million damages claim by a Scottish farmer against Rechem International, came after one of the longest civil trials in legal history.

Andrew Graham, 61, and his wife Irene, 44, claimed that toxins emitted by Rechem's incinerator at Bonnybridge, near Falkirk in Central Scotland, had caused the illnesses themselves by overfeeding their cows in an attempt to boost milk production and reduce their debts.

Rechem's incinerator, he concluded, emitted negligible quantities of toxins that did not pose a health risk. The ruling will have implications for a similar case involving another farmer, who owns land near a Rechem incinerator at Pontypool in Gwent and for a group of women who blame emissions at Pontypool and Bonnybridge for eye defects in their children.

Anton Bates, the Grahams' solicitor, whose firm also represents the other claimants, said the judgment would be carefully studied before they decided how to proceed.

The case lasted 198 days, spread over 14 months, and ran up estimated legal costs of £3 million, half of which falls to the Legal Aid Board. It was heard in England because the Grahams were refused legal aid in Scotland.

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BLACK & DECKER 'REFLEX' GL580C TRIM 'N' EDGE TRIMMER 340W. £54

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Meanwhile, Victoria, formerly Sea Princess, will be in the Caribbean between January and April.

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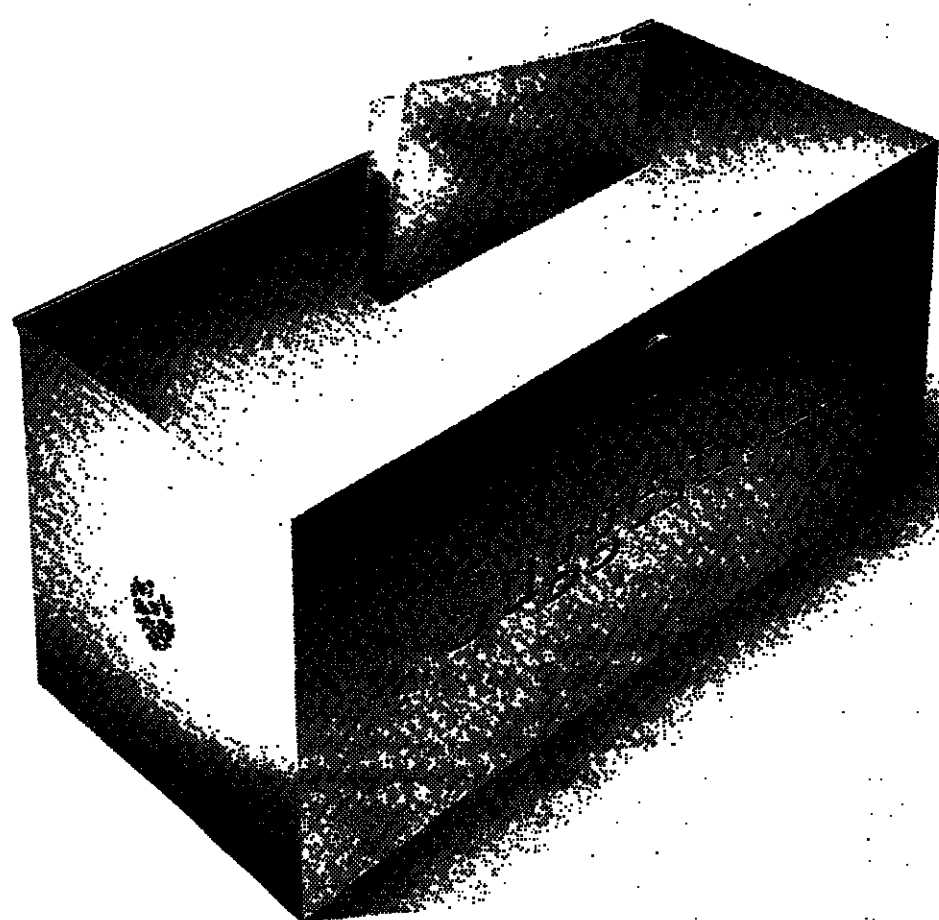
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Comic wit of Wisdom gives him the last laugh after 60 years



Wisdom: big in Albania

By RICHARD DUCE

NORMAN WISDOM, master of the comic caper and folk hero in Albania, has been appointed OBE with three other familiar faces from the world of showbusiness, the singer Elaine Paige and the actors Susan Hampshire and Saeed Jaffrey.

Wisdom, 80, said last night: "It's better than topping the bill at the London Palladium." He is honoured for services to entertainment and for his charity work.

He was "dabbergasted" to be appointed OBE. "This is as important to me as my British Film

Academy award," he said from his home on the Isle of Man.

He worked his way from abject poverty in Marylebone to millionaire status but until now had not appeared on the honours list in spite of being a favourite at a string of Royal Variety Performances.

Wisdom has had a career spanning some 60 years, has made 19 films and won a British film award for *Trouble in Store*. Because his films were allowed under the former Communist regime of Enver Hoxha he achieved something akin to superstar status. On his tenth trip to Albania he was given the freedom of

Tirana. The man who wrote and sang the hit *Don't Laugh At Me 'Cos I'm A Fool* in 1954 is filming a video, *The Best of Norman Wisdom*, near his home.

Miss Paige, 43, is honoured for her services to the musical theatre. In the past 15 years she had been a leading lady in several Andrew Lloyd Webber productions. She has starred in the hit musicals *Evita*, *Cats*, *Chess*, *Plat* and *Sunset Boulevard*.

Susan Hampshire is honoured for her services to dyslexic people. She is President of the Dyslexic Institute.

She used to dread being asked to read aloud at school and it was not

until she was 30 that she discovered she was dyslexic. Four years later she summoned up the courage to speak publicly about her condition even though friends in the theatre world thought it would be professional suicide.

Her decision encouraged Richard Rogers, the architect, and Jackie Stewart, the former racing driver, to acknowledge they were also dyslexic.

Miss Hampshire has been a West End star since 1988 when she appeared in *Expresso Bongo*. She has won three Emmy awards for best actress as Fleur in *The Forsyte Saga*, as Sarah Churchill in *The First*

Churchills and as Becky Sharp in *Vanity Fair*.

Saeed Jaffrey is honoured for services to drama after an acting career spanning 40 years. He started his own theatre in Delhi where he staged works by Wilde, Shaw and Priestley because he was "much more comfortable with the English language".

He is probably best known in Britain for his parts in *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Gandhi* and *Tandoori Nights*. Jaffrey has made more than 70 films in India. His first marriage was to Madhur, an actress who later became a television cook.



Paige: musical memories

CBE marks peacetime service of H's widow

By EMMA WILKINS

THE widow of Colonel "H" Jones, VC, who has worked for bereaved military families since her husband was killed in the Falklands War, has been appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Sara Jones, who collected her husband's posthumous Victoria Cross from Buckingham Palace 15 years ago, said her own award reflected on the support of her sons Rupert and David — both soldiers in their father's former regiment. "I am really overwhelmed and awfully pleased. I think it reflects on the whole family, who have been marvellously supportive — especially the boys," she said yesterday.

Mrs Jones, 53, who supported the campaign to have a nationwide two-minute silence on VE-Day, said her work with the Royal British Legion and Falklands Families Association filled a void created by her husband's death. "A lot of what I do now has come my way because H died. You have a gap in your life and see what

you can do to fill it. I probably wouldn't be doing any of this if I hadn't lost him," she said.

Despite the death of Colonel Jones, who was killed in the recapture of Darwin and Goose Green in May 1982, Mrs Jones always encouraged their sons to join the army.

Captain Rupert Jones, now 26, is serving in Bosnia and his brother David, 29, is serving in Northern Ireland. Both boys joined their father's old regiment, the Devon and Dorset.

Mrs Jones, who is honoured for her services to ex-service men and women, helps to organise Poppy Day each year. "We must remember that people go on dying in the service of their country and we should all be grateful. Remembrance pulls us together as a nation," she said.

Julian Critchley, Tory MP for Aldershot and who two days ago tipped Michael Heseltine as the next leader of the Conservative Party, receives a knighthood.

Mr Critchley, who had polo as a child and is now on crutches due to the condition, said he was delighted.

"I think my acceptance will please my father, delight my children and enrage my enemies, which is marvellous."

"I didn't expect it, but of course the regime has now changed. I believe that Margaret (Lady Thatcher) once said that it would happen only over her dead body. Because I am crippled, I have been in dock for the last two years and go to the House only occasionally to save the Government's bacon for which, I suppose, they must be rather grateful."

"It's very nice of John Major and I hope people will think of me as a knight of the shires not a knight of the suburbs."



Sara Jones: appointed a CBE for her work with bereaved military families

The outgoing Archbishop of York, the Most Rev John Habgood, and the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, the Most Rev Robin Eames, are created life peers.

Dr Eames has played a vital role during the peace process in relaying Unionist fears to the Prime Minister.

He made his views clear in public in a letter to *The Times* earlier this year when he wrote: "Lasting peace and reconciliation will never emerge if the genuine feelings of one community are perceived to have been accommodated at the cost of a failure to be sensitive to the equally genuine feelings of another."

Dr Eames was tipped as a front-runner when Dr Robert

Runcie announced his retirement as Archbishop of Canterbury, but lost to Dr George Carey.

Dr Habgood, 67, is widely credited with saving the Church from schism after the General Synod voted to ordain women priests in 1992. He is due to retire two years early in August. Dr Habgood's liberal views on social issues in the 1980s earned him the wrath of Margaret Thatcher.

Professor John Free is appointed to the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) for his services to beekeeping. William Thesiger, 85, writer and explorer of Arabia and Africa is appointed to the Order of the British Empire (KBE).

Constance Ward, waitress at The Mitre, Oxford, becomes MBE for her services to the hotel and catering industry.

Lady Brook, who pioneered family planning with the Brook Advisory Services, is appointed CBE.

□ One of Queen's personal list, Lieutenants of the Victoria Order include Patrick Jephson, private secretary to the Princess of Wales and Judith Hill, a partner in Farrer and Co, solicitors to the Queen. Lt Col Sean O'Dwyer, private secretary to Prince Edward, is also appointed LVO.

Peter Barnard, page 18
Business, page 23
Sport, page 44



John Habgood: made a life peer

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Protest over Rugby's head girl prompts new interest in school

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

PARENTS have flooded Rugby School with inquiries about places, particularly for girls, in the wake of protests by pupils against the appointment of the first head girl.

The £12.70-a-year school in Warwickshire has been inundated with requests for information from parents impressed by Louise Woolcock, 17, in numerous radio, television and newspaper interviews she has given this week.

Graham Hedges, a mathematics teacher and director of communications at Rugby, said the school had received a stream of inquiries about places since a boycott of a chapel service by half of Rugby's 500 boys was first reported in *The Times* on Wednesday. He said: "The number of telephone inquiries has accelerated considerably during the past few days. The balance of the calls has been from parents of girls. Several

have said that they did not realise that Rugby was coeducational."

The school has also received calls from members of the public wishing to pitch in to the debate about Miss Woolcock's appointment. She will share the post of head of school with Huw Brown from September, the first girl to win the accolade in Rugby's 428-year history. The calls from outsiders have run in Miss Woolcock's favour by a considerable margin.

Mr Hedges said: "People have said, 'If Rugby has helped to produce a girl like that, then I would like to consider the school for my daughter.'"

Within hours of the announcement of Miss Woolcock's appointment on Monday, senior boys began plotting a public demonstration of their opposition.

A campaign of disobedience

ensued which has included hostile flyposters, banners strung from the school's chapel, and leaflets criticising her appointment hidden inside pupils' hymn books before chapel. The protest appeared to have fallen quiet yesterday but one rebel said: "This is not over yet."

The campaign has been masterminded by about 20 senior boys who claim the school has succumbed to political correctness. Members of the house, which consists of pupil heads of houses and senior prefects, were angered by the decision of Michael Mavor, the Head Master, to ignore their arguments that girls should not be considered for the post until they have come up through the school ranks from age 13. This would block female candidates for another three years because Rugby became fully coeducational only in 1993.



Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, with a model of the Albert Memorial at the centre

Elements will undo memorial renewal

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE £14 million programme to save the Albert Memorial will protect the monument from the ravages of the climate for no more than 60 years, according to English Heritage. Attempts to find a weather-proof coating have failed and rain, sun and pollution will continue to take their toll on the 175ft monument, due to reopen in 1999.

Speaking yesterday at the opening of a visitors' centre in Kensington Gardens, London, Alasdair Glass, project director of English Heritage, said: "Although we are currently testing coatings for the monument to protect it from the weather, there does not seem to be a solution to the ravages of climate."

The National Heritage Department is expected to contribute a total of £8 million towards repairs. English Heritage is giving £2 million and hopes to raise £4 million from public donations.

Importance of religion is that it is not natural

Dr Edward Norman

IT IS often said that man has a spiritual faculty, a "natural" inclination to reach out for religion. When this capacity is not expressed by adhesion to one of the historical religions he grasps at substitutes: New Age phenomena, sects and cults, or aesthetic sensation.

But the notion that mankind is possessed of a spiritual faculty is probably a fiction. What people have, and what divides them from the rest of creation, is the capacity for reason and reflection, which they can satisfy in many ways, some of which may involve religion. It is not, however, that men and women have a reasoned or emotional inclination to religion, but that they have inclinations that they choose to express in religious terms. That is a very different matter.

People are enormously adaptable. There are seemingly no social conditions to which they cannot adhere, no life-style too radically alien. It is often said that this or that manner of living is "natural" — the present enthusiasts for ecology depict mankind as most at home in a primary environment of rural simplicity. That is all largely fictional. Virtually everything that conditions thought is artificial; they are transient in the process of permanent re-creation, the products of perpetual cultural change.

These two considerations ought not to prompt spiritual anomie, for they are closely in correspondence with the biblical view of mankind. The religious tradition that Christianity inherited — always

described people as material beings made by God and set amid a changing historical landscape. Their sense of the divine presence did not derive from any peculiar faculty but from observation of themselves and of the rest of the work of God's hands.

When God revealed himself it was within the tradition of knowledge handed down among his people, an acquired tradition derived from the same material creation that informed them about everything. The largely post-Romantic notion that religion is essentially a dimension of the emotions would have seemed ridiculous to the ancient world.

Jesus did not talk about beautiful feelings or the fulfilment of personal claims to emotional enrichment: he spoke about the commands of God, and the acts of goodness which in this life prepare us to receive the spiritual culture in which the divine presence may be expressed. It is the "otherness" of religion that is important — the fact it is not "natural" to "be religious".

We are products of our context, so it is crucially up to us to work for the cultivation of a personal and a collective conviction in which the flowers of spirituality may grow. In the Christian understanding of the world men and women are called to work with God in the progressive development of the planet. Religious consciousness derives from our responsiveness to that calling, not from any innate faculty.

Dr Edward Norman is Chaplain of Christ Church College, Canterbury.

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Bells strike sour note

PLANS to install authentic bells in place of the tape-recorded peals that summon the congregation to a south Devon church have divided parishioners.

The vicar, the Rev Paul Abram, wants to install six bells at a cost of £42,000 at the Holy Trinity church at Salcombe, which has existed for 154 years without the real thing. But some of the congregation argue that real bells would be too loud or that the

money should go to Third World charities. A few have left over the row.

When the church was built, the founders hoped local businesses would pay for bells but the money never materialised. Residents have now raised almost all the sum needed and 16 bell-ringers have been in training. But protests against the plan mean the matter will go to the Exeter diocese ecclesiastical court for a decision in the autumn.

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Pioneering Russian surgeon sees himself as saviour of a nation disillusioned with politicians

An eye to the future

MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON



WHEN Svyatoslav Fyodorov, 74, wakes to his alarm one day, he finds himself in a room where workers are moving, officials are talking, and a wealth is shared out between citizens. It is hard not to be infected by his enthusiasm.

Sitting at his office in Moscow, the pioneering eye surgeon and millionaire businessman makes an eloquent and convincing argument at the mini-empire he has built over three decades could one day be used as a blueprint for reforming the rest of the country.

"In the West, you think that Russians just spend their time

drinking vodka," he said. "But that is not true. All people need is motivation... the knowledge that they will get something in return for their efforts. Then they will work hard by choice."

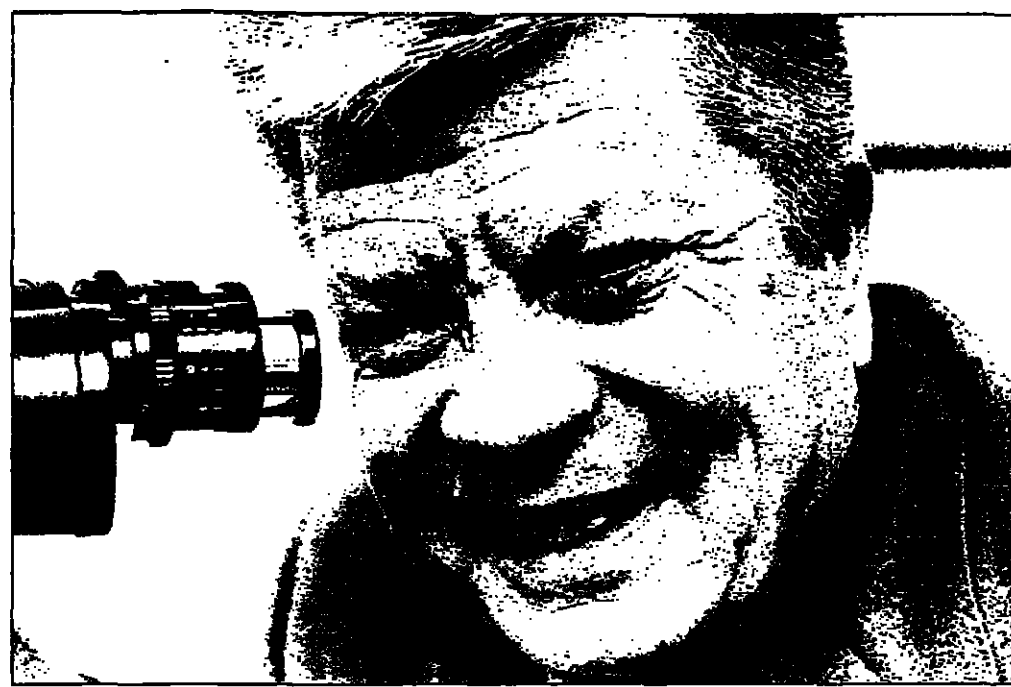
To prove his point, he proudly shows visitors around his Eye Microsurgery Complex where daily profit figures are posted on the office noticeboard for the benefit of the 3,400 employees,

who are all shareholders. Although his home-grown concepts of economics may seem naive, they have struck a chord with the public, which has grown disillusioned with the Government and politicians.

"We are becoming a nation incapable of producing anything because there is no incentive," Dr Fyodorov said. "Instead, we sell off our natural resources and a small group of bureaucrats pockets the money. If this continues, in one or two generations we will be like Africa."

The eye surgeon first won acclaim when he developed artificial lens implants in the 1960s. Then, he established an international reputation for pioneering eye operations, and today runs 12 state-of-the-art hospitals across Russia and a floating surgery, now off Gibraltar.

Three months ago, Dr Fyodorov decided to end his longstanding flirtation with politics when he established the Workers' Self-Rule Party and announced his candidacy for President. Since then his grey hair and round face



Svyatoslav Fyodorov cannot believe how blind Western leaders are regarding President Yeltsin

have become a regular feature in newspapers and on television chat shows where he gives feisty performances. His attacks on an inefficient government have made him popular.

"Russia is rich in oil, diamonds, gold, timber, but I have not seen one kopeck of it," Dr Fyodorov said. "The only people who are

thriving in Russia today are the gangsters, and [President] Yeltsin and [Prime Minister Viktor] Chernomyrdin are the biggest gangsters of the lot."

He calculates that he will be able to count on the support of more than two million satisfied former patients, as well as their families and much of Russia's

medical community. Nevertheless, fighting as an independent will be difficult. Dr Fyodorov said that part of the problem was that Western leaders still treated Russia's leadership with respect.

"I cannot believe how blind they are. I am prepared to give them free surgery to cure them of their short-sightedness," he said.

Minister courting favour

HE HAS bungled the war in Chechnya, been accused of gross incompetence and caused the resignation of the most popular officer in the Russian Army, but General Pavel Grachev is far from finished.

The stocky Russian Defence Minister has proved that when his back is against the wall he can pull off the impossible — in this instance, winning the annual "Top Hat" tennis tournament staged this week in the Black Sea resort of Sochi. The tournament, between members of the ruling elite, has become a key indicator of who is in and who is out of favour with President Yeltsin.

Among the contestants were Andrei Kozhev, the Foreign Minister, Viktor Ilyushin, the main presidential adviser, and a group of politicians close to Mr Yeltsin. The final pitted General Grachev against General Aleksandr Korzhakov, the head of the presidential security service.

Mr Yeltsin is expected to play the winner in Moscow when he returns from the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations. So far, General Grachev's only reward has been a tennis racket, but officials predict a brighter future for him.

Carlos wreaked terror to force over's release

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

CARLOS the Jackal embarked on some of his most brutal attacks but of love for a German woman rather than a burning commitment to revolution. German legal sources say the Venezuelan-born terrorist, after arrest in France, fell in love with and stole away the girlfriend of his main adjutant Johannes Weinreich, the explosive expert.

Herr Weinreich, 48, is being interrogated in a Berlin prison, having been extradited from Yemen last month. He has been charged with three bomb attacks and participating in a missile attack at Orly airport in Paris.

In 1981 he helped to set up the radical Red Star bookshop in Frankfurt. This served as a front for the terrorist Revolutionary Cells, which fired bombs at German branches of American companies. Herr Weinreich fell in love with Magdalena Kopp, a photographer working in the shop.

In 1982, the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine decided to need a European network and asked Carlos — real name Ilich Ramirez Sanchez — to make the contacts. He had the Revolutionary Cells, the Berlin prosecutors say, signed up Herr Weinreich for joint operations. In January 1975, a German

hired a Peugeot for the Palestinian missile attack on an El Al airliner at Orly. The German authorities were convinced that man was Herr Weinreich and arrested him in 1975, but he was bailed out by Frau Kopp and went underground. She then fell for Carlos, and apparently her feelings were reciprocated.

In February 1982, the French police caught Frau Kopp with a carload of explosives and she was sentenced to four years' jail. Carlos' operations immediately changed direction. Instead of working for the Palestinians, the KGB or the highest bidder, he acted on his own initiative to put maximum pressure on France to free his lover.

Bombs were planted in France, in trains, stations and in central Paris. At least 14 people died as a token of his love. In August 1983 Herr Weinreich smuggled 24kg of plastic explosives from East to West Berlin to blow up the French Cultural Centre; this was Carlos' final blow against the French for his lover, and it was her former boyfriend who played the crucial role. She was freed in 1985, joined Carlos in Damascus, and gave birth to their daughter Rosa. She now lives with his family in Venezuela.

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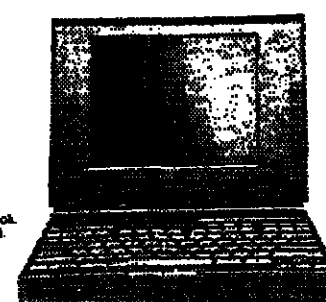
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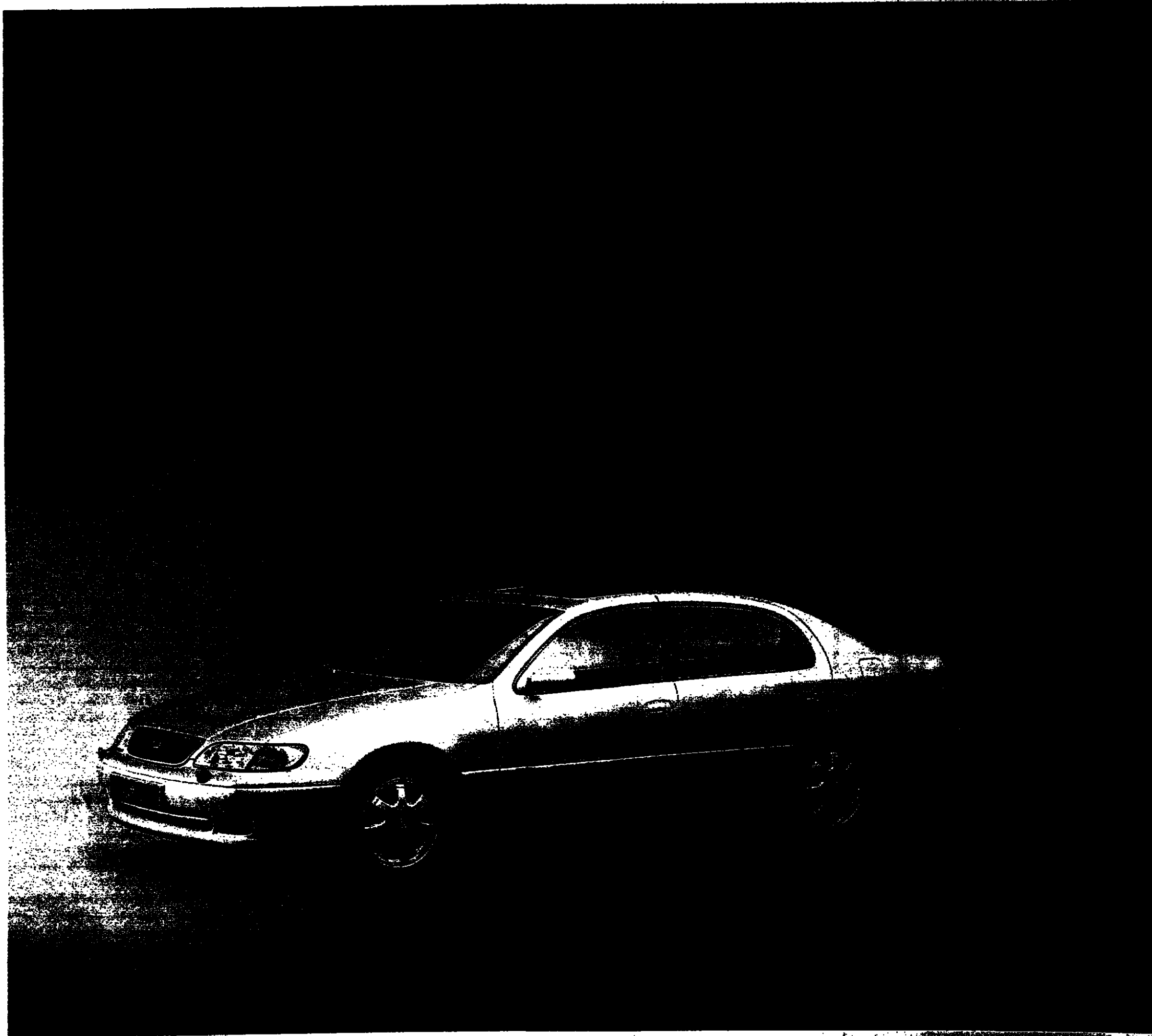
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Russian troops poised to attack hostage hideout

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN anti-terrorist forces were last night preparing to storm a hospital in southern Russia where 100 Chechen gunmen are holding 2,000 hostages captive. Speaking after talks with President Yeltsin, who left for the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations in Nova Scotia, General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, said force seemed to be the only way to resolve the three-day siege in Budennovsk.

"I am not sure that the terrorists, who have the blood of many people on their hands, will surrender as a result of negotiations," said the minister, who added that "use of force as soon as possible" seemed the only option. Several units are ready to take action, including the former KGB's Alpha unit, which stormed the White House in October 1993 to quell a rebellion by hardliners.

Tass reported yesterday that the Chechens had released the bodies of 50 people, most of whom were thought to have died of wounds suffered in the attack on the town on Wednesday. The bodies raised the total death toll to at least 117.

General Grachev's comments came after a day of fruitless negotiations between Russian officials and the hostage-takers led by Shamil Basayev, the commando leader, who acted without the consent of General Dzhokhar Dudayev, the leader of breakaway Chechnya. Cool, devout and respected by his men, Mr Basayev has rarely been far from the frontline fighting where his troops fought harder and more skilfully than other

Chechen units. His skill even drew the admiration of his Russian foes, and Sergei Stepashin, head of Russian intelligence, recently described him as "the number one person in Chechnya".

Mr Basayev came to prominence when he led a Chechen volunteer force to fight beside the Abkhazis in their separatist war with Georgia. He later became the head of General Dudayev's bodyguards before his recent appointment as commander of Chechen forces in the field.

According to captured Chechen gunmen involved in the raid on Budennovsk, he is determined to avenge the loss of 11 members of his family, killed in the Russian assault on his home village of Vedeno last month. His uncle, aunt, sister, brother-in-law and several nephews and nieces were killed in an action that appears to have turned a brilliant guerrilla commander into a suicidal terrorist.

Yesterday the besieged Chechens repeated their threat to kill all the hostages and said they were prepared to die unless Russian troops were pulled out of Chechnya. The Russians offered the Chechens "any amount of money" and safe passage if they let the captives go. "We are dealing not with simple terrorists but with political terrorists," said Mr Stepashin. "They have turned down offers of money and a plane. They did not agree to a proposal to withdraw 1,000 Russian troops from Chechnya in exchange for disarming 1,000 fighters and holding elections as planned in November."

Reporters invited into the hospital



Shamil Basayev, the Chechen guerrilla leader, in the seized hospital

for a news conference on Thursday said the Chechens had sufficient weapons to cause massive destruction and loss of life. They had divided the captives according to their age, size and strength, leaving women and children in the corridors but keeping about 200 men under guard in one

ward. There did not appear to be enough food and water for the captives. Russia's Choice, the liberal opposition party, is demanding the resignation of General Grachev, Mr Stepashin and Viktor Yerin, the Interior Minister, for gross negligence in not preventing the attack in the first place.

Fight to save boy and mute woman buried by quake

BY REUTER IN EGION, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRESH aftershocks shook western Greece yesterday as rescue workers in Egion struggled to free two survivors — a boy and a wheelchair-bound mute woman — buried for more than 36 hours in a block of flats destroyed by Thursday's earthquake.

A quake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale struck northern Crete yesterday and seismologists issued a warning about another major tremor in this western coastal town as the death toll rose to 20. Rescue teams dug out the bodies of five more French tourists at the Eliki Hotel.

The dead victims, ten French tourists, nine Greeks and one Italian woman, were in the hotel or block of flats. More than 60 people were injured, many seriously, by the quake, 90 miles west of Athens in the Gulf of Corinth.

Swiss and Greek rescue teams fought heat, exhaustion and time to free the two Greek survivors, but admitted that progress was slow. The discovery of the survivors raised hopes that up to ten missing people, including two French tourists, might still be alive.

Rescuers said that tunnelling through the debris of the block of flats was laborious and tiring. "We're advancing very slowly with hammers and chisels. No machinery. We're afraid the vibrations will bring down the whole area," said Thierry Angeretas, a member of the Swiss team.

The boy has been identified as Andreas Bogdanos, eight. "The problem is that we can talk to him but we don't know his exact location," said Beat Kraetli, the Swiss team spokesman. "Sometimes he talks logically, but sometimes he hallucinates. That means he's suffering from dehydration. We must get him out as soon as possible. There is a danger he may die."

In another part of the collapsed building, workers were trying to reach Maria Elvira Frangonikolopoulou, a mentally retarded woman confined to a wheelchair.

"Dogs detected a second person alive," Mr Angeretas told reporters yesterday, just after Ms Frangonikolopoulou was located, although at that stage they did not know who it was.

"We hit a wall and he hit back. We hit three times and he hit back three times. He, or maybe she, is moaning but can't talk. We're trying to find ways to rescue him," he said. The rescuers later established that the person they had found was a woman who was unable to speak.

The quake caused widespread destruction throughout the western Greek region near the port city of Patras. More than 15,000 people slept outside on Thursday night and officials distributed blankets, tents and beds. There were no immediate reports of casualties in Crete.

WORLD SUMMARY

'Blockade' fears for Gibraltar

Madrid: Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Javier Solana, his Spanish counterpart, in Madrid on Monday to discuss Gibraltar's future as Spain takes over the presidency of the European Union (Edward Owen writes). Joe Bossano, the Rock's Chief Minister, believes the Spanish authorities intend to delay visitors heading for Gibraltar for hours in a new car park near the border, under the pretext of searching for contraband goods. "They are just repeating Franco's blockade strategy," he said.

Number's up for Chinese pirate

Hong Kong: A Chinese national is to be charged with piracy for the £800,000 robbery from a hijacked jetfoil this week. Macau police retrieved £320,000 and arrested one of their officers. Hong Kong television said six people had been arrested. Police identified numbers called from a mobile telephone left by the pirates. (Reuters)

Khmer Rouge suspect held

Phnom Penh: One of six Khmer Rouge guerrillas believed to be responsible for killing two Britons, Dominic Chappell and Tina Dominov, and an Australian, Kellie Wilkinson, after they were ambushed on the road to Siha-noukville last year has been arrested, a senior Cambodian police official said. (AFP)

Tourists rapt by Reichstag plan

Berlin: Art-loving tourists flocked here to await today's the wrapping of the Reichstag by Christo, the Bulgarian-American artist, whose parcel project has flattered Berliners but disappointed Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor (Roger Boyes writes). It will stay under wraps for two weeks.

Poisoned politics of Vitrolles catches up with Le Pen's deputy

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN VITROLLES, PROVENCE

BRUNOMEGRÉT, who shocked or delighted France last weekend, stood outside a Provencal cemetery and survived his gleaming Renault with a sd shrug. The front had been smashed in with a sledgehammer. "They just did that to me in broad daylight. I have to be very careful about where I go now," he said. The sabotage was testimony to the venomous mood in this town of

40,000 just northwest of Marseilles since M Megret, 46, the No 2 in Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front, stunned politicians by surging ahead in the mayoral contest.

His surprise score of 43 per cent, 15 points ahead of Jean-Jacques Anglade, the Socialist incumbent, was the biggest in the swing to candidates from the anti-immigration party which swept the Mediterranean coast and other areas in last week's first round of council elections. While the Front scored

strongly in Toulon, Marseilles and Nice and will have hundreds of councillors across the country, it is only in Vitrolles that the parish party has a real chance of taking over a town hall. In the event of victory, M Megret, a senior civil servant whose degrees include an MSc from Berkeley, will be well placed to succeed M Le Pen, 66.

A coastal new town that has erupted around a village under the bluffs of the Provence foothills, Vitrolles, which lies next to Mar-

seilles airport, boasts neat housing estates, palm and pine-lined avenues and a giant shopping centre. Vitrolles is also a name in sport, thanks to its handball team, which was European champion in 1993 and whose members dominate France's new world champion side. The town also offers a prime example of the cocktail of unemployment, crime and immigration which helped M Le Pen score 15 per cent in the presidential election. "Of course we picked the Front.

Vitrolles is afraid and they are the only ones who can stop it," said Delphine, a flower seller at the market on Place Nelson Mandela. "We have been burgled and our car stolen over the past year. You don't have to look far to know it's the Arabs." A few yards away, Karim, an African jewellery seller, said that he would fear for his life if the Front took over.

The Mayor is still trying to make sense of last Sunday's results. He has appealed, without success, to

the beaten conservative candidate, to join him in a "Republican Front" against M Megret.

Resentment towards immigrants was deemed by many to be the message behind M Megret's campaign play. This was the delivery to thousands of residents of a bar of soap, accompanied by the Front's call to "Let's give Vitrolles a complete clean-out". He said: "That was just to give people a laugh. They like a good laugh in Provence."

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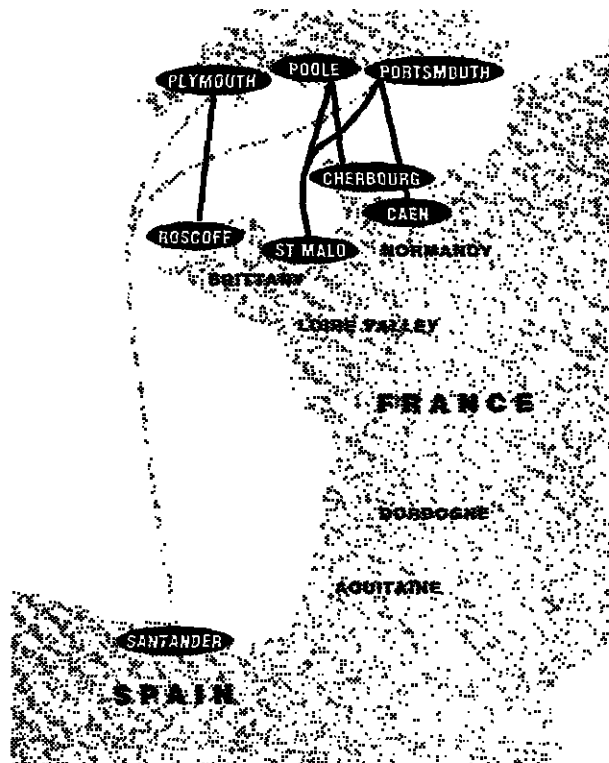
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Yeltsin snubbed over demand for economic role

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

PRESIDENT YELTSIN arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, yesterday to be told by his summit partners that they did not yet consider Russia ready to join the economic disciplines of the G7 group of leading industrial nations.

In a review of economic reform in Russia before Mr Yeltsin's arrival, Western leaders made it clear that they would rebuff Moscow's attempts to be included from the start in all the economic, as well as political, discussions at future summits.

John Major told his partners that the time was not yet right for Russian membership of G7. "We look for programmes of economic co-operation with Russia, but their ultimate entry will depend on economic reform," similar sentiments were expressed by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and other G7 leaders.

Western concern over continued fighting in Chechnya also dominated the review of Russia's progress. The leaders underlined the importance of dialogue with Moscow, but said the failure to halt the fighting in the Caucasus would inevitably cast a shadow over East-West relations.

"We are concerned at the brutality of their actions in Chechnya," one official said. The European Union had already deferred action on a

broad trade agreement with Russia, pending satisfaction with what Moscow was doing to quell the conflict.

Mr Yeltsin arrived with his wife, Naina, and Andrei Kozhev, the Russian Foreign Minister, looking relaxed and vigorous. He shook hands with schoolchildren before making a formal arrival in Halifax. He was presented, as all the G7 leaders were, with an eagle's feather by Chief Ben Silliboy, a descendant of the Mic Mac Indians, the Native American tribe that lived in Nova Scotia before English and French colonists arrived.



Mr Yeltsin is hoping for a pledge from the G7 that it will continue to underpin Russia's economic reforms. More important for Moscow, however, is the chance for Russia to be included in the political decisions being taken here, especially on Bosnia, the reform of international organisations, and financial help for Ukraine to decommission the nuclear reactors at Chernobyl.

Mr Yeltsin will also use his day in Canada to impress on the West the danger of unilaterally extending Nato membership to Eastern Europe

and of Nato military actions in Bosnia undertaken without consultation with Moscow.

Two issues in which Russia has a deep interest in closer co-operation with the West are crime and nuclear smuggling. Moscow has been angered by what it says was a German "sting" operation last year to entice smugglers into carrying nuclear material to the West as a way of underlining lax security standards in Russia. President Yeltsin is likely to insist that controls are still as stringent as ever.

Mr Yeltsin is ready to offer the help of Russian security services to combat drug smuggling, money laundering and the recent extension of Russian mafia organisations to the West. Police chiefs in Western Europe have given warnings of a powerful new international network of organised crime syndicates, often led by Russians.

□ Moscow: The State Duma, Russia's lower house of parliament, yesterday demanded that President Yeltsin return immediately to Moscow from Canada to tackle the hostage crisis in southern Russia.

The demand was made in a non-binding resolution that also asked Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, to head the talks with the Chechen hostage-takers besieged in the hospital at Budennovsk. (Reuters)



President Chirac, with John Savage, right, the Premier of Nova Scotia, pleases the crowds with an election-style walkabout in Halifax

Leaders ring the changes in the Big Top

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE circus went to the circus yesterday. The G7 leaders, joined in the afternoon by President Yeltsin, left Bosnia, growth strategies and currency fluctuations on the negotiating table and strolled down to a tent on the waterfront for a special performance of the Cirque du Soleil, a colourful whirl of acrobatics, dance, theatre and music that is one of Canada's prize cultural exports.

Apart from the circus, there has been little *soleil* in Halifax, although that has not stopped the impromptu street parties and the hardy display of shorts and T-shirts to remind the visitors this is officially summer. Nor

has the watery light filtering in from the grey Atlantic hampered the leaders' carefully staged walkabouts: the unexpected sound of cheering and the sight of waving flags was the political tonic so many urgently needed.

President Clinton was inevitably the star. He arrived first on Thursday, stepped off the ferry, crossed over to the crowd of squealing spectators and immediately scooped up the startled Kaylee Berglund, four, delighting her aunt and alarming the hovering Secret Service. His wife Hillary has been just as big a hit, and the talk of the town has been her elegance, sophistication and her outfit, breathlessly described as "a wonderful tailored pink blazer and slim skirt, very Chanel-like". John Major has also endeared himself to

the crowds, shaking hands, exchanging pleasantries and surprising a few visiting English tourists.

Britain's heartfelt support for Canadian fishermen in the dispute with Spain has not been forgotten, and Brian Tobin, the Fisheries Minister, came to Halifax to greet the Prime Minister. He, like the other leaders, accepted a ceremonial eagle feather, a reminder that Nova Scotia was originally the land of the Mic Mac Indians.

President Chirac, radiating bonhomie and political self-confidence like a Newfoundland lighthouse in the fog, beamed as pipers played Scottish tunes. He guzzled at polite bans notes by protocol officials. The French leader appeared deaf to the chanting of "No nukes" by some of the earnest

environmentalists trying vainly to attract attention to their rival Other Economic Summit.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, astonished everyone with his bulk, his breezy authority and his impromptu decision to go for a two-hour harbour cruise on a ketch.

The most forlorn figure has been Jacques Santer. Almost nobly here, has recognised the President of the European Commission, few know much about the EU, and hardly any more have been able to identify Luxembourg. Still, on the assumption that he must be famous as he was carrying an eagle feather and he had had struck up when he landed, they dutifully pushed forward their autograph books.

O.J. struggles to pull on bloodied gloves

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FOR only the second time in his six-month trial, O.J. Simpson was allowed to approach the jury in a potentially crucial episode yesterday. Wearing latex inner gloves, he pulled over them the blood-stained leather gloves his accusers claim link him to the murders of his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her companion, Ronald Goldman.

At first, they did not appear to fit. Grimacing and muttering "too tight, too tight", the former American footballer

and actor struggled with the left glove, found at the murder scene, and made heavy weather of the right one, which the defence says was planted in his grounds to frame him.

Eventually Mr Simpson had the gloves on with room to spare at his fingertips. Christopher Darden, prosecuting, suggested his struggle had been play-acting. But Johnnie Cochran, defending, said afterwards that Mr Simpson "would be a great actor if he could act his hands larger".



O.J. Simpson wearing the crucial evidence yesterday

Luxor tomb on display

Cairo: The pharaonic tomb of Queen Nefertari, reputed to be the most beautiful in Egypt, is to open to the public after nine years of restoration, the country's Antiquities Department said yesterday.

The tomb of King Ramesses II's favourite wife, discovered in 1904 in the southern town of Luxor, has never gone on show to the public but will open in the next few days, the department said. The Paul Getty Institute started restoration work on the damaged tomb in 1986. (AFP)

Peking minister to visit Hurd

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

AS A reward to Britain for agreeing to Peking's terms for a Court of Final Appeal in Hong Kong, Qian Qichen, the Foreign Minister, will visit London in October.

The Foreign Office yesterday confirmed Mr Qian's acceptance of a British invitation, open since last July.

Although the British and Chinese Foreign Ministers are obliged by a 1991 memorandum of understanding to meet twice a year, Mr Qian and Douglas Hurd have met only

twice since then. No senior Chinese official has been to London since November 1992 when Zhai Rongji, a politburo standing committee member, issued a warning that the validity of the 1984 British-Chinese joint declaration had been undermined by plans for constitutional change in the colony announced by Chris Patten, the Hong Kong Governor.

Last November, after the British Government had offered Peking funding agree-

ments for the new airport, Mr Qian said he might come to Britain eventually, but only when he had seen "concrete" signs of further British co-operation.

These came last week with the British concession to Peking's demand that the Court of Final Appeal, which Mr Patten and other officials here had insisted must come into being before the Chinese resumption of power on July 1, 1997, be established only on that date.

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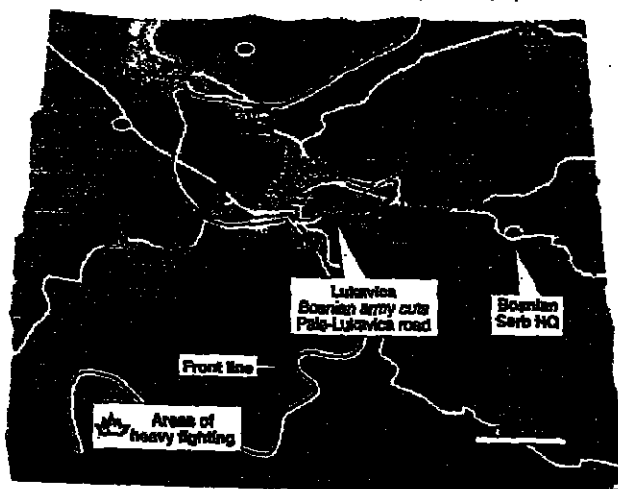
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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Plus: Spy! He betrayed his country for the money - lots of it. The gripping story of America's greatest traitor starts tomorrow.

'I'm happy about the offensive. We're willing to pay the price'

FROM STACY SULLIVAN
IN SARAJEVO

SARAJEVANS awoke to a curious mixture of dread and hope yesterday: dread at the familiar sound of artillery, mortar and gunfire in the hills around their homes, but hope that this time the fighting might bring a change of fortune for the besieged city.

Residents had deserted the streets and took cover in their homes. The city looked as if it had been abandoned, with shops and businesses shut. Only a few armoured vehicles sped through the empty streets, in contrast to Thursday morning when the roads were packed with anxious people crowding shops to stock up on food. As reports of the fighting were given

SARAJEVO

by the first wounded government soldiers being brought to hospital from the frontlines early yesterday, many Sarajevans seemed jubilant that Bosnian forces appeared to be making an attempt to ease pressure on a city which has been under siege for more than three years.

With the last supply route into the capital, as well as the supply tunnel, closed by government forces to civilians, Sarajevo has been without water, electricity and gas for nearly a month. A few hours after the fighting began, a shell slammed into Kosevo hospital, killing two patients and seriously wounding three others. A rocket hit

the Foreign Ministry, close to the Presidency in the city centre. Sporadic shelling of the city continued throughout the day, but most of the explosions were on the front lines in the hills overlooking Sarajevo.

"I'm not scared at all. I'm thrilled," said Zeha Laccvic, a middle-aged resident in the Old Town who has a son fighting on the front lines. "The situation must stop and the time is now. We must trust ourselves because we have learnt that we can't rely on others," she said, referring to the United Nations which has been able to do little for Sarajevo residents in recent weeks.

Even though an attempt to lift the siege would result in heavy military and civilian casualties, residents said

that they supported their army's efforts. Walking down a deserted street carrying a sack of infusion tubes, Zelimir Stojkovic, 26, who works at the hospital, said: "I'm happy about the offensive. After three years we're willing to pay the price."

Residents seemed to echo the sentiment of President Izetbegovic who accused the UN of prolonging the suffering of his people when announcing the attempt to "prevent the further strangulation of the city" on Bosnian television on Thursday night.

"Thank God that it has finally started. We've all been sitting at home waiting for something," said Tanja, 29, a mother, from her flat in the Old Town. "We want the end and it doesn't matter in what way."

US votes for extra Bosnia troops but refuses to pay

BY JAMES BONE AND MARTIN FLETCHER

BRITAIN and the United States clashed in the United Nations Security Council yesterday over the financing of British and other European reinforcements for the UN force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

As the confrontation flared in New York, a humiliated President Clinton had to tell his fellow world leaders in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that he could not deliver the dollars required to strengthen the UN operation after Republican leaders in Congress sent him a message saying that they would not pay for the build-up.

The Security Council voted yesterday to authorise the deployment of up to 12,500 extra peacekeepers in Bosnia to form a Rapid Reaction Force to protect the UN "blue helmets" already there.

The United States supported the resolution only after making clear that it would not pay its normal 31 per cent share of the estimated \$414 million (£258 million) cost of the new UN troops over the first six months.

The controversy arose on Thursday when the Republican leaders of Congress said they would not help to pay for the planned UN Rapid Reaction Force being set up by Britain, France and the Netherlands. The Republicans' announcement outraged Britain and France. President Chirac had met the Republican leaders in Washington on Wednesday. Eager to deploy the new force as quickly as possible, France called a Security Council vote for the

middle of the night on a resolution authorising the new troops. The measure was passed 13-0, with Russia and China abstaining.

The United States said it would support the resolution if "the modalities of financing" were determined later. Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador, said: "We vote in favour of this resolution on the clear understanding that, by doing so, we are not incurring any direct financial obligation."

Britain insisted, nevertheless, that the new force should be financed through the normal UN peacekeeping budget, of which the British Government pays 6 per cent. British officials tried to throw the financing question over to the General Assembly, where the

United States does not hold a veto as it does on the Security Council.

Sir David Hannay, Britain's Ambassador, noted that it was the 185-nation General Assembly - not the 15-nation Security Council - that bore responsibility for finances under the UN Charter. He said that Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Secretary-General, had recommended that the cost of the reinforcements should be considered "an expense of the organisation" and fall under the normal UN peacekeeping budget.

During dinner at the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations,

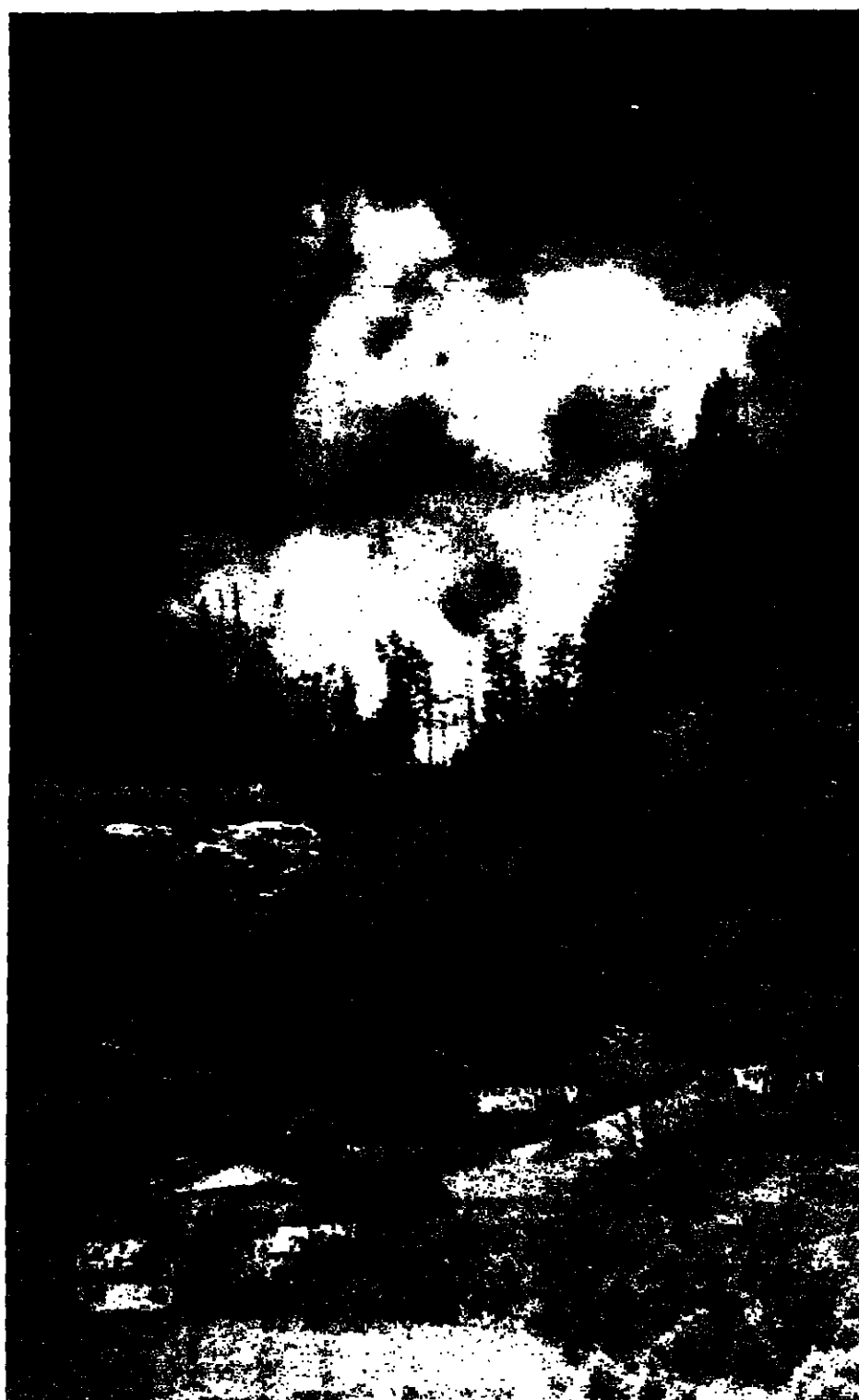
Mr Clinton admitted that Congress was blocking American funding for the expanded UN operation. The dinner was thrown into turmoil. European officials could not say who would pick up America's share of the cost if Mr Clinton's "consultations" with Congress fail. They insisted that the new force would be deployed regardless, supported by voluntary contributions if necessary.

Officials were also dismayed at the encouragement this transparent disunity among the world's leading nations would give to the Bosnian Serbs, and at this latest example of America's failure to support the allies' peacekeeping efforts. "The Americans have pressed us for a long time for a more robust performance in Bosnia. We introduce a more robust element then find the Americans cannot pay," one European diplomat said.

As the largest contributor of new troops, Britain will be the biggest loser if the Americans refuse to finance the expansion of the peacekeeping force in Bosnia.

Publicly, the G7 leaders sought to play down the rift. John Major said there was "a complete understanding that the Americans have a technical problem". Veteran diplomats could not, however, remember any occasion when an American President had been so blatantly undercut while on the international stage.

Leading article, page 19



A shell explodes on the Pale-Sarajevo road as Bosnian troops confront Serb forces

Rejuvenated Muslims seek to break stranglehold

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Bosnian Government has taken its boldest gamble since the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina began. The success or failure of the present operation to break the Serb hold over the supply routes into Sarajevo will dictate future options.

If the Government forces can create a secure corridor into the capital, and drive a route from Sarajevo all the way to Tuzla in the north, they will achieve a significant military victory. They will also

strike a psychological blow against the Serbs, who for most of the war have enjoyed the advantage of being the best equipped, best trained and most tactically skilled of the warring factions.

For the first time, the largely Muslim-dominated Bosnian Government Army, the BiH, is taking on the Serbs on a huge scale and proving that after three years of being regarded as a ragtag band who had to share their Kalashnikovs, they are now

better disciplined and motivated. Their military hardware is still limited, but they have the advantage in manpower, with 92,000 soldiers, including about 40,000 irregulars, compared with the Bosnian Serb Army of 75,000, which is stretched to the limit trying to hold on to 70 per cent of Bosnia. If the Serbs have to reinforce positions around Sarajevo with brigades from other parts of Bosnia, they could leave gaps in their defensive lines.

There are a number of strategic Serb-held locations where the Muslims, often

backed by Croat artillery, have been focusing smaller attacks in the past six to nine months. If the Sarajevo operation is successful, the BiH would have to maintain a huge force in the area to keep the Serbs at bay. But the BiH may also keep up the momentum by switching resources to these other areas.

The key areas of interest to the Bosnian Government include the Posavina corridor, the thin strip of territory in the northeast which runs from Serbia, via the Serb-controlled town of Brcko, on to the Serb Krajina enclave in

Croatia. The Muslims and Croats jointly have attacked this vital Serb supply route ever since Brcko was seized by the Serbs in one of the first operations of the war.

Unusually for Bosnia, this is flat terrain which is excellent for tank manoeuvres and the Serbs have held the advantage. The Muslim-Croat assaults have hardly changed the front lines, although the corridor at its narrowest point is still less than five miles.

If the Bosnian Government Army, aided by Croat guns, could close this route, it would cut off supplies to Krajina and

the Serb-held towns in north-west Bosnia such as Bihać and Banja Luka.

The other area where the BiH might want to reinforce for a concerted attack is in the Serb stronghold of Ozren in the north. The BiH has previously tried to seize a strategic road that runs along the southern end of the region to secure a supply route from Tuzla to Zenica, both Muslim cities. All attempts have failed, but a rejuvenated BiH might feel more confident about taking on the Serbs in the Posavina corridor and Ozren.

HOSTAGES

guide Nato jets to their targets during airstrikes. Dr Karadzic said on Tuesday, when the previous group of British hostages were freed, that the monitors could not be released then for unexplained "technical reasons", but that they would go free within days.

Mr Papoulias also expressed fears about the repercussions of the battle for Sarajevo. "If the Muslim build-up continues, we should be worried. It will be a war of total horror," he said.

The mission by Mr Papoulias and Mr Arsenis to Pale has been hailed in Athens as a success for Greek mediation. It is believed, however, that President Milosevic of Serbia was initially deeply unhappy about the ministers' intervention, because he wanted to be seen in the West as the man responsible for winning the freedom of the hostages.

"Greece has excellent ties with Pale and can intervene in a way other countries cannot," Mr Papoulias said. "We decided to use these ties to help the hostages." It is unclear what Greece can do to help the remaining hostages, who come from 12 countries.

Schengen zone to expand

Brussels: The Nordic Union and the Schengen group of European Union states agreed terms yesterday for an effective merger, clearing the way for abolition of border controls from the Mediterranean to the Arctic.

Ministers from the Nordic states and Belgium, which holds the presidency of the ten-nation Schengen group, adopted a memorandum setting out a framework that will allow Denmark, Finland and Sweden to be fully integrated into the Schengen zone without sacrificing a 40-year tradition of open borders with Norway and Iceland.

Bjorn Westh, the Danish Justice Minister, said that the agreement was a "significant breakthrough" and made a merger of the two passport-free zones only a matter of time. (AFP)

Protest delays new commander

Kishinev: Hundreds of women protesting at the resignation of General Aleksandr Lebed, head of the Russian 14th Army in Moldova's separatist Dnestr republic, blocked the runway at Tiraspol airport and prevented an aircraft carrying his successor from landing. (Reuters)

Tanzania halts Burundi exodus

Bujumbura: Tanzanian troops prevented up to 10,000 Rwandan war refugees from crossing the border out of troubled northeastern Burundi. UN officials said. It was unclear what led to the exodus from Mugano camp, only a few miles from the Tanzania border. (Reuters)

Call for bomb tests in Paris

Tokyo: Makiko Tanaka, the Japanese Science Minister, attacked France's decision to resume nuclear testing and said it should detonate its weapons in suburban Paris rather than the South Pacific. She thought the tests were for boosting French esteem rather than safety. (Reuters)

Pensioners die in coach crash

Tarragona: Thirteen elderly people were killed and 21 others were injured when a tourist coach and a trailer lorry collided head-on in eastern Spain. The coach was taking more than 40 pensioners back to Valencia after a three-day holiday in an Ebro nature park. (Reuters)

Bakhtiar killers jailed for life

Paris: A French court sentenced six Iranians in absentia to life imprisonment for their role in the 1991 murder of Shapur Bakhtiar, the late Shah's last Prime Minister. The six, who include Farzadoun Boyer-ahmadi, 42, and Muhammad Azadi, 35, are in hiding or abroad. (Reuters)

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Richard I, Richard II, Richard III, Richard, Cliff. This order of entries from Chambers Biographical Dictionary should have prepared avid perusers of references works for today's elevation of Richard, Cliff to the ranks of the knights.

Here, at last, is a man from the modern cultural establishment who can safely be admitted to Buckingham Palace without the slightest fear that he may greet the Queen with a kiss or subsequently toss his award back over the gates in churlish protest at some act of policy.

Here instead is the safest pair of shoulders that ever bent before a monarch. Far from being a cause for dismay and further ridiculing of the honours system, the forthcoming arrival of Sir Cliff demonstrates that if the system has any point at all, Mr Richard (as he briefly remains) is the very embodiment of it.

Compared with some who have been handed titles in modern times, Mr Richard is a shining example of old-fashioned British decency and

Arise Sir Cliff, a reluctant rock'n'roll rebel to suit the climate of the times, says Peter Barnard

Congratulations, bachelor boy

the ability to succeed by sheer force of will.

His knighthood completes a quite remarkable transition: the British Elvis Presley, circa 1959, becomes the male Dame Vera Lynn, 1995.

There are those of us who saw it coming, long ago and far away. From the press seats of the ABC cinema in Plymouth, some time around 1964, I watched Cliff Richard for the first time and knew that he was Good.

For one thing, the concert began when the ticket said it would, something none of the tedious rock'n'roll "rebels" of the era would allow to happen. For another, you could hear the words, which were sung in tune. Mr Richard also possessed the ability to move his

feet other than for the purposes of propelling a football into the circle or the goal.

The songs, although lyrically unchallenging, seemed to celebrate the state of being young rather than resembling a suicide note from a teenager depressed by acne. Backstage, Mr Richard gave me an interview and as I left he said: "Thank you for coming to see me, Mr Barnard." I was about 18 years old at the time.

All of this rendered Mr Richard a hopeless non-runner in the struggle to be Britain's version of Elvis Presley. There was no chance whatsoever that at some point in his forties Mr Richard would be found in a toilet, bloated, drugged and dead.

And in life, especially his pre-

army life. Presley carried an air of youthful malevolence and sexual chemistry that came from inside. Mr Richard's sex appeal had the aura of something more wholesome and his demeanour suggested that he would bring your daughter back by midnight, and intact.

Of course, there have, from time to time, been tabloid efforts to suggest that nobody's daughter was at risk from Mr Richard, but these have come to naught. Given the number of people in show-business for whom marriage is a public relations exercise, we ought to be grateful to Mr Richard for refusing to bother us with more than the occasional glimpse of his private life.

I do not pretend to be an admirer of Mr Richard's music but I do

have a certain admiration for him, not least because his avowal of Christianity could have (and perhaps did) damage his career. In an industry in which such gods as exist drive Porsches, this kind of step takes real courage, a quality sufficiently rare in public figures to be worth cherishing.

Those who found Mr Richard's religion risible were the very people who thought the Beatles "cool" when they climbed mountains in India (where Mr Richard was born) to strum sitars at the feet of bearded gurus, implicitly supporting the contention that when people stop believing in God they believe, not in nothing, but in anything.

Mr Richard believes in something and could not care less who

knows it. This belief is another bonus point from the standpoint of those who hand out honours, for it puts an establishment label on the ethical centre that most of us possess, even if we do not choose to call it Christianity.

The root benefits of a knighthood. Mr Richard are more prosaic. After the cross-generational forces of John Lennon sending back his MBE and the award of an honorary knighthood to Bob Geldof, the all-swear five o'clock shadow man, the knighting of Mr Richard now forces popular music back where it hates to be: in the conservative heartland of British life.

The reality of Mr Richard's musical contribution is not that he

is different but that he is honest. Pop music is an industry like any other and its air of being rebellious and nonconformist is a cloak put on for the purpose of making money.

Those in the industry who deride Mr Richard would sell their grandmothers for half his record sales and a quarter of his professional longevity. They may have mocked him for sharing a bill with Dame Vera Lynn at the VE-Day commemoration concerts, but that event in itself demonstrated that Mr Richard is in closer touch with the mind-set of Middle England than any grunge rocker could ever hope to be.

Paul Simon, another ageing rock star, has a song with the line: "Every generation throws a hero up the pop charts."

Having thrown Mr Richard in that direction with *Living Doll* in 1959, few of his fans could have imagined that the former Harry Webb, with almost as much hair and just as sweet a figure, would step forward 35 years later to receive the ultimate seal of approval. Arise Sir Cliff.

Dudley Fishburn defends the idea of dialogue with Labour

Talking to the enemy

Become a Member of Parliament and suspend all judgment. No longer deal with the world as it is and is known to be. And certainly, if a Tory, don't mention the fact that Labour, 39 per cent ahead in the polls and only a handful of seats behind in Parliament, may one day form a government.

That is why so many people looked askance at my suggestion, published in a piece circulated in the City, that business would do well to make its number with the Opposition. The obvious and true do not sit happily on the lips of a politician: good advice equals betrayal.

What kind of MPs do the public want? Loyal, yes, to party and country. But blind and dumb too? I doubt it. The great victory of Conservatism this generation is that it has finally brought an end to Socialism. This is Margaret Thatcher's triumph, pressed home by John Major. Conservative policies have become the received wisdom of the Opposition. The country is a vastly better place for it: an open, market-driven economy and a commitment to low inflation and free trade is now guaranteed across both sides of the House. There could be no better news for Britain.

But the Government seems quite unable to claim any credit for this remarkable triumph. There are no laurels or plaques to be had when any MP, such as myself, says: "Hurrah, we won." The parallel here is the end of the Cold War. That was an absolute victory for the West, a huge blow for the good of humanity, and yet no credit has gone to those who fought for it.

But if I cause an outrage when I say that the Labour Party would do well to sharpen up its act by listening to the modern demands of business, then an MP may as well stop trying to promote the national interest. It is a theme to warm to: British business needs to get hold of Labour and shake real policies into its present rhetoric, which seems receptive but is still ill thought-out.

Many MPs seem to think that now Labour has ditched Socialism, the Tories should respond by ditching Conservatism. Let's pull out of Europe, say this lot. Let's respond to our extraordinary success in

attracting foreign investment by running up the flag of xenophobia. Let's pitch our tent away from the crowded ground where everybody lives and works and head off to more lonely places.

The country, and the West in general, is in a Conservative, no-nonsense mood. I doubt it will return a left-of-centre party at the next election. But will it ever return the Opposition to government? Of course it will, or this would be no democracy. But none of this may be spoken. And so the thought police get to us and reality recedes. Is it any wonder that Parliament and parliamentarians are seen as ever more marginal to the real way in which Britain bustles? But this collapse in the wisdom of Westminster is not reflected in the country's performance. Business leadership and confidence are streets ahead of anything found in Parliament. The quality of people, dealing with real issues and building real wealth, is of a different order from those building a political house of cards.

Here, at last, is a Britain that is taking on the world and winning. The average working Briton spends over a third of his day producing a product which is sold abroad; exports are soaring; Britain's investment around the world is at a record high; and in my own constituency of Kensington there is a cosmopolitan life that makes London the undisputed centre of international activity between the Urals and New York.

These are all good reasons for saying that the commercial life of our nation — which is the way that real people spend their real time and energies — should educate politicians, and that politicians (Labour ones too) should listen to business. That is in the national interest and any Tory knows it.

Everywhere, we are succeeding because we are — relative to our competitors — open, liberal, unencumbered by prejudice or regulation: Tory values all. Everywhere, that is, except in Parliament where not too much reality is allowed in to spoil a party game that is a generation out of date and where the Tories' greatest triumphs may not be whispered.

The author is Conservative MP for Kensington

Vermeer's splendid Dutch landscape should be returned to Delft as a reminder of a lost vision

I made a mistake this week. I supposed that one of Europe's most splendid landscapes, Vermeer's *View of Delft* hanging in The Hague, portrayed a scene that could be enjoyed today. I hoped one day to visit the old buildings shimmering above water, the huge Dutch clouds darkening the town's gates and walls and the sunlight darting over the rooftops behind.

We should not surround works of art with these fantasies. Or if we do — as we always do — we should at least not put them to the test of reality. Travel in northern Europe is now a monotonous experience. You drive from London along a standard motorway to Heathrow. You check in at a standard airport, board a standard aircraft, receive a standard snack, land at a standard airport, hire a standard car and drive on another standard motorway to a standard hotel. The products, the services, architecture, even the lettering, are the same. At this level, Europe already has a common currency, one of designer blandness.

Returning from a conference in the Netherlands on Monday, I found I had time spare to visit Delft. It was the birthplace of Vermeer and setting for what the art historian, Arthur Wheelock, calls "perhaps the greatest celebration of a city's existence ever created", the artist's *View of Delft*. There was rain and sun in the air. The sky was Vermeer's alternate grey and blue. I would make a pilgrimage to the home of the master and seek out the setting.

Delft is one of Europe's minor marvels. Like Bruges in Belgium or England's Rye it was declared obsolete by the 19th century and unimportant by the bomb-targeters of the 20th. The core still contains the Old Church and New Church, the town hall, the market square, the armoury, and is penetrated by a pretty network of canals and bridges. Delft is a genteel Venice, a Venice with trees and modest amounts of traffic. It still trades in Delftware and is prosperous and attractive to those who wish to live in towns but without dirt or noise. It is, thus, faces the 21st century in good shape.

Yet ask at the visitor centre after Delft's most famous son and you will be shown to the main square and the large statue of Grootius, the jurist. Remind them of Vermeer and they will dig out a dusty leaflet not translated into English and point to a plaque on a modern building. It



Detail from Vermeer's *View of Delft*. A heavy cloud darkens the foreground, but behind rooftops and church towers glow in the sunlight

marks his birthplace, where his father lived in the market square. They deny all knowledge of the house in the Catholic ghetto in which he is known to have lived with his wife and children, brought up his 11 children and painted most of his interiors. Asking after the setting of the *View of Delft*, I was pointed in the wrong direction, to the Oostpoort gate. There is no Vermeer museum, no monument, just an inscription in the church. The prophet is truly without honour in his own land.

Vermeer's *View of Delft* was a break from the formal perspectives of European cities popular at the time. The vision of his native town was intimate and personal, as if executed for his own amusement or as one of his experiments with camera obscura lenses and the play of light. The picture is impressionistic. The artist appears unconcerned with precise detail and did not even put the buildings in the correct relation to each other. He strains the composition to give depth to a flat Dutch townscape.

Thus a heavy cloud darkens the foreground, lending the gates and fortifications along the riverbank a sombre tone. The effect is exaggerated by their reflection in the river. Yet behind this foreground, the rooftops and church towers of the town's interior glow in sunlight. Another Vermeer scholar, John Nash, finds the power of the picture in this contrast of light behind and shade in

Simon Jenkins

front. Delft presents a *dour* facade to the outside world, he says, but the sun shines on the living town with all its human activity, glimpsed beyond. Here is "the visible and the unseen heart of Delft".

The picture was the first Vermeer to be rediscovered in the 19th century, when it was bought by the new Marquis de Sade in The Hague. There, it amazed the French art historian, Théophile Thore, who "retained an indelible memory of this masterpiece" even after a feast of Rembrandts. It has now been cleaned and redisplayed at the Maritshuis, with a startling alteration in its appearance. Most Vermeer enthusiasts will know it as a brooding work, later varnishes covering clouds, water and brickwork in a brown haze. These have been removed and Vermeer's colouring revived. The contrast between shade and sunlight is now stark. The city floats on water with which it is surrounded. The Dutch sky, which fills half the

canvas, is now less oppressive, more luminous.

But my fantasy has exploded. The setting is gone. The Schiedam and Rotterdam gates portrayed in the painting are no more, nor is the town wall or even the course of the river. A railway track appears to have supplanted it and a traffic interchange swirls by the stretch of canal that does remain to the right of the scene. Nor even a ghost survives. Only across the town at the Oostpoort is a twin-towered gate and bascule bridge reminiscent of the one in Vermeer's painting. I suppose the tourist office is right. This leafy and picturesque corner evokes Vermeer's Delft better than the true location, though Vermeer is in no way picturesque. His riverbank is businesslike, the commercial artery that brought the wealth of the East Indies to the burghers of Delft.

The church towers are still there. The redbrick gables and handsome houses still look down on canals and bridges. The streets and facades of 17th-century Delft survive, but not Vermeer's mysterious buildings magnified in water, not his metaphorical rampart-and-moat protecting the city of light from the landscape of darkness.

Seventeenth-century Holland was a country not of villages but of towns, independent and confident, wallowing in Simon Schama's "embarrassment of riches". It was a land of Victorian values three centuries be-

fore their time. Civic self-reliance was allied to political and commercial freedom and was considered crucial to it. The citizens of Delft despised central governments and would never have signed Maastricht.

As Schama points out, The Netherlands of the Golden Age contrived to be both open to novelty — in art, commerce, religion and even tulips — and yet introverted and bourgeois. For most of his life, Vermeer, the son of a publican and rentier, could afford to paint little, yet raise a large family. He rarely travelled and drew his inspiration from paintings bought by him and his friends and from such artists as might visit Delft. Yet he produced pictures of startling technical originality. Such is the *View of Delft*, his only apparent homage to his native town.

The painting ought surely to be returned to Delft. The practice of shutting up such specific works of art in distant national museums must end. Delft's town hall, now being restored, waits invitingly for a masterpiece.

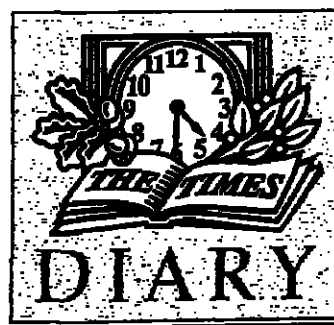
As triptychs are left in churches and frescoes in palaces, so works of civic art can surely be entrusted to the towns they celebrate. They should not be anaesthetised by exile. Delft may no longer be the Delft of Vermeer. The fantasy may have burst and the town be moving towards the European common currency of design. But at least it could get its picture back.

Tennis elbow

TWITCHY nerves in the post-Nolan climate are leading Tory MPs to reject one of the great perks of parliamentary life — free Centre Court tickets plus strawberries and cream at Wimbledon. In previous years, scores of backbenchers and ministers breezily snapped up offers of a day at the All-England championships. But now they fear accusations of sleaze if they exceed the magic limit of £160 for accepting hospitality from a company or lobbyist.

"In the present climate, I just haven't taken the risk," shuddered one minister who turned down the offer. Roger Willoughby, clerk of the Register of Members' Interests, pronounces that a day at the championships is marginal. "I do not know the cost of Centre Court tickets but, combined with a lunch, they could come to more than £160. But MPs may think it hardly decent to ask their host."

Wimbledon's local MP, Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes, is exasperated. "This paranoia has got completely out of control. Whether you go to the All-England or the opera you are hardly likely to say to



your host, how much is this costing you? The whole thing has been extended ad absurdum."

But the rejections have cheered up at least one MP. "Tee hee," laughs Labour's Tony Banks. "So Nolan is spoiling Tory MPs' social lives now — that will teach 'em. I can imagine MPs going along with calculators to these things in future and turning down an extra drink in case it breaks the limit. Maybe lots of Labour MPs will get invited now instead."

● Nelson Mandela took the podium at a rally near Ladysmith on the anniversary of the Soweto

uprising yesterday, with today's rugby semi-final on his mind. Sporting a Springbok supporters' hat, he exhorted the crowd: "We must all be behind our boys for the match. We will do to the French what we did to the Australians!"

Turfed in

THE SCENE in the British Embassy's sublime gardens in Prague on Thursday night for the party in honour of Her Majesty's birthday was quintessentially English. Celebrations were understated, the brass band played and our man, Sir Michael Burton, and his wife glided among the assorted diplomats, military top brass and local notables.

As one English guest pointed out to the Burtons, even the grass smelt evocatively of home. "Actually that's because the turf was imported from England," Lady Burton informed him.

Unsuited

AS MPS on the Tory 1922 Committee fuelled last yesterday of a challenge to John Major's premiership, there are whispers of a plot to remove them from their positions.

For many of the Young Turks want a shake-up of the 18-member executive to oust "oldie" MPs, dubbed the "men in grey suits", who, they fear, may be unduly sensitive about telling Major to go.

The plotters are targeting grandees retiring at the next election who dominate the executive, including Sir Peter Hordern, Sir Anthony Grant, Dame Jill Knight, Sir John Hannam, Sir Anthony Durant and Sir Fergus Montgomery. "These men in grey suits are now



"If you listen closely you can hear the oil companies panicking"

so grey they'll never tell Major the truth," grumbles a younger member of the executive. "They're busy keeping their noses clean until they retire, in the hope of a peerage."

Cheam spirit

TWO DISTINGUISHED alumni of Cheam Hawtrey's, one of our oldest prep schools, near Newbury, have rallied round for this week-end's festivities to mark the 350th anniversary of the foundation of Cheam School. The Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales have donated the tombola prizes.

Sadly Trooping the Colour duties prevented them attending the ball, cricket match and relay race. "But they sent messages and the Prince of Wales has very kindly donated a signed copy of his book about Highgrove and the Duke of Edinburgh a framed print of a razor-bill," says a spokesman for the school. "They sent them for the tombola, but we are going to raffie them. They are certainly unusual prizes."

Seeing red

THE FRIENDSHIP between Lord Healey and General Sir John

Hackett, dating from their Oxford days, was once sorely tested. As an Imperial War Museum reception yesterday Hackett reminisced on how he had to clench his teeth when Healey, who had flirted briefly with the Communists while a student, arrived as Defence Secretary during his time as deputy Chief of Staff.

The ministry had a strict rule that no former member of the Communist Party could see files above a certain level of certification. "Yet there I was handing over to this man files marked top secret, for your eyes only, destroy immediately after reading and so on," says Hackett. "But I could hardly keep the Secretary of State in the dark."

House call

THE Shakespearean actor Sir Robert Stephens continues to make a favourable impression on the heir to the throne. "We spent a day last week recording the tavern scene from *Henry IV* with the Prince of Wales at Highgrove for the *Prince's Choice* recording," says his wife, Patricia Quinn, who also took a part (as old Toby, Robert's son by Dame Maggie Smith).

A studio was set up in the drawing room and the Prince took the



Patricia Quinn: no queues for the royal loo at Highgrove

part of Prince Hal and Robert was Falstaff. We were meant to record solidly for two hours. But halfway through Robert announced he had to answer a call of nature. The Prince then said he had to go as well as old Toby, Robert's son, so they didn't have to queue in Highgrove. They had one each."

P.H.S



IN SARAJEVO

This is a fight for life, not a fight to the death

The Bosnian Government offensive in and around Sarajevo is a gamble for high stakes. It has two purposes: to ease the Bosnian Serb stranglehold on the city; and to inflict enough military damage on the Bosnian Serbs to convince them that a negotiated settlement is in their interest, thus ending the diplomatic stalemate of the past year. Since neither of these objectives would be achieved were they to head the appeal from Halifax for "an immediate moratorium on military operations", the West's leaders were wasting their breath. The Bosnian Government's predictable retort was that the siege of Sarajevo is in itself a military operation.

The UN is, for the moment, a bystander; its 5,000 peacekeepers in Sarajevo can do little but keep track of the fighting and stay out of the line of fire. But this outbreak of fighting, serious and large-scale as it is, should not be seen as the decisive moment when outside intervention ceases to have any point. On the contrary, it could if successful shift the psychological as well as the military balance in this conflict, making a more robust relief effort possible while greater diplomatic pressure is applied. The offensive should therefore act as a spur to speed up the deployment of the Anglo-French Rapid Reaction Force, even if America shamefully will not honour its legal and moral obligation to pay its share of the costs.

The Bosnian Government forces have the advantage of the Serbs in manpower, and by sustaining their offensive across several fronts have showed that they are now far better grouped and trained — and somewhat better armed. But lifting the siege permanently is almost certainly well beyond their capacity, and probably not in their plans. It would take them weeks of heavy fighting, in which the Serbs' superiority in heavy weaponry — greatly accentuated by their seizure of nine UN-guarded weapons depots three weeks ago — would inflict enormous

casualties, civilian as well as military. The more restricted Bosnian objective, given the UN's admitted incapacity to reposition the city, is to open and hold open at least one major route into Sarajevo. Their apparent success in cutting the road between the Bosnian Serb headquarters in Pale and Lukavica, a Serb barracks close to Sarajevo, is of secondary importance. It will have boosted morale, but the parallel effort to dislodge the Serbs from the road that runs north of the city from Vogoska to Olovo and on to the government stronghold of Tuzla in central Bosnia is of far greater potential importance for the city's survival. Even if the current offensive in this area succeeds, the Serbs would still have to be dislodged from the city's northern perimeter — but that no longer seems the military impossibility it was only a few months ago.

This offensive remains extremely risky, and the Bosnian Government knows that hard as it will be for the Bosnian Army to dislodge the Serbs, it will be even harder to hold onto its gains — particularly if the Serbs move brigades from other parts of Bosnia. With 75,000 troops holding an extended front line, the Serbs would however be highly vulnerable elsewhere if they reinforced around Sarajevo. Even temporary success would also demonstrate that the Serbs no longer held the military initiative.

That will be the moment when diplomacy has its chance. Muhamed Sacirbey, Bosnia's Foreign Minister, says that his Government is prepared to stop fighting and "await political pressure" in exchange for assured relief for Sarajevo and the removal of heavy weapons from the UN-declared exclusion zone. Today, that prospect may seem more distant than ever. But the Serbs are now under some pressure clear across Bosnia. That is why even minor Bosnian military gains could, if the West's nerve holds, improve the odds for peace before winter.

A TAX ON CARING

Keeping the elderly at home should not be penalised

The High Court has ruled that families who create accommodation for elderly relatives in their own homes — what are popularly known as "granny flats" — are liable to pay two separate council tax bills. Dwellings provided for aged parents are to be regarded as independent households for tax purposes, even when they are a portion of the main house. Mr Justice Ognall, by finding in favour of the Inland Revenue which brought the case on appeal, has dealt a blow to all those families who already take on the expensive responsibility of caring for the elderly at home.

To add further injury, such families are likely to have to pay the additional tax retrospectively from 1993. The Inland Revenue wants this judgment to remove any ambiguity in present practice: council valuation officers may now feel they have no choice but to assess any house with a granny flat as two dwellings. If this is so, it will be a clear disincentive for families to provide this dignified and humane solution to the problem of ageing parents.

Groups concerned with the welfare of the elderly are justifiably outraged. It is short-sighted and little short of vindictive for the Treasury (in the form of the Inland Revenue) to pursue those who are saving vast amounts of taxpayers' money by looking after the aged in their own homes. Even when it is technically correct to designate a granny flat as an independent dwelling, it would be insensitive and officious to use this as an excuse to increase the tax burden on the old themselves or on their conscientious children.

But a great deal hinges on the correctness of such a definition. An Inland Revenue

spokesman has said that the High Court was ruling on a point of law rather than practical detail: it had no power to decide what actually constitutes a "separate dwelling". Thus the five cases involved in this hearing will have to be referred back to valuation tribunals for a final adjudication on their status.

Nonetheless, Inland Revenue sources have taken it upon themselves to say that in order to be "self-contained", premises need not have their own front door or even their own lavatory or bathroom. This statement flies in the face of common sense as well as fair play. Rental accommodation that had no private lavatory could not properly be advertised as "self-contained".

Revenue authorities have also stated that tax liability will not be affected by whether or not the occupant of a granny flat pays rent. The logic of this comment seems even harder to defend: those who pay no rent have no legal rights as tenants. Legally, they are nothing more than guests in the home. How then can they be judged eligible for taxation as an independent household?

Some of the most damaging effects of this decision may still be avoided. Council valuation officers could have it within their power to define "separate dwellings" in ways that will exclude a great many of the most vulnerable people from tax. They may, for example, be free to establish quite strict criteria for the category of "self-contained" premises: having separate metering for utilities, for example, or a distinct postal address. This judgment needs to be interpreted in a way that does not flout the Government's own principle of encouraging care in the community.

CHARLIE IS MY BARGAIN

Well plaid the Stuarts, for once in their calamitous careers

The tartan that Bonnie Prince Charlie wore at Culloden is a colourful skirt-tail to history. This used to be as puzzling a trick question as the length of Cleopatra's nose, the Turin Shroud or the name that Achilles assumed when he hid himself among women.

But centuries of tartan conjecture have now been solved by tartanologists at the National Museum of Scotland after eight years of scientific detection across the length and breadth of the Highlands and clans. Working on a piece of cloth no bigger than a scrap of *Oxyrhynchus papyrus*, they have reconstructed and authenticated it as part of the kilt that the Young Pretender wore when he fled from the fatal battle that ended the Stuart pretensions. Its MacDonald and Campbell provenance is woven solid. And chromatography and spectroscopy have analysed the ancient vegetable dyes that were used before the Victorians standardised tartans with synthetics. Their stripes of red, black and yellow on a blue-green base conform to the colour-coding of tartans, which favours wild clash over chromatic harmony.

This rediscovered Jacobite tartan, which has been adopted as the badge of the new Museum of Scotland, brings dead romance back to life. But it does not prove anything historically momentous about Scottish dress. It is true that Bonnie Prince Charlie's ancestor, James V, was described and painted wearing hose of "Heland tartane". But in those days a man's tartan depended on personal whim and the dyes available. After Culloden the kilt was banned, except

for the Government's Highland bands, which became the Black Watch. They were the only Highlands allowed to bear arms, and at the same time bare their legs beneath the Campbell tartan. The modern protocol of Scottish national dress was invented after the tartan frenzy of George IV's visit to Edinburgh in 1822, and by Victoria and Albert's tartanitis, which made them design the Balmoral tartan and decorate every surface in their Deeside cottage with a different set.

The rediscovery of this primitive Stuart tartan is a romantic triumph. But more important: it has hard-headed commercial and tourist potential. The ancestral kilt-makers and shops selling tourist trinkets along Princes Street, Sauchiehall Street and Union Street will already find the "correct" tartan to go with any name in any nation's phonebook, however un-Caledonian. They will deck out any figure of whatever shape or colour from bonnet to dined hose in Royal Stuart or whatever other vivid tartan takes the figure's fancy. In spite of the purist rule that tartan should be worn only north of the Highland Line, Black Watch and all the other tartans are the fashion accessories of the year from Tokyo to Paris.

Tartan is about commerce, not romance. That was a lesson the Stuarts never managed to learn when they were trying to be kings and pretenders. But two and a half centuries after they finally lost their thrones, they have left their fellow-Scots a nice little tartan bawbee-earner to tuck in their authentic clan sporrans.

Plea for room to bargain on EU

From Lord Plumb, MEP for Cotswolds (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative), and others

Sir, As we approach the European Council meeting in Cannes (June 20 and 27) and the first discussions on the subject likely to be raised at the 1996 inter-governmental conference, we write to express our concern about the Government's room for manoeuvre on Europe being compromised.

Britain must be an active participant in these discussions, contributing to an effective, robust European Union in the longer term. It is not in our national interest to shut off options now about participation in EU policies in the future. Our agenda should focus on three priorities.

First, we must ensure that EU countries have the capacity to act effectively in the area of foreign and security policy, at the same time strengthening transatlantic relations.

Second, we must continue the process of EU enlargement to other countries, recognising that this will involve institutional changes. Obtaining greater influence for bigger member states in the Council of Ministers, for example, requires a willingness to negotiate in other areas.

Third, as the Prime Minister negotiated, we must maintain our right to decide whether to participate in a single currency in the future. Surveys show that most large British companies believe that it would be in our long-term interest to do so.

The changes now being considered should be designed to promote maximum popular support for UK membership of the EU. We need to reassure the business community by providing a prosperous and stable environment in which to operate, and to inspire a younger generation with optimism about our future prospects at the heart of Europe.

Yours faithfully,
HENRY PLUMB
(Leader of the Conservatives in the European Parliament),
BRIAN CASIDY,
GILES CHICHESTER,
JOHN CORRIE,
BRENDAN DONNELLY,
JAMES ELLES, CAROLINE JACKSON,
EDWARD KELLET-BOWMAN,
ANNE MCINTOSH,
EDWARD MCMILLAN-SCOTT,
JAMES MOORHOUSE,
ROY J. PERRY, JAMES PROVAN,
TOM SPENCER, JOHN STEVENS,
JACK STEWART-CLARK,
ROBERT STURDY,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
June 15.

Tory leadership

From Mr John E. Stafford

Sir, In your report (June 13) of James Naughtie's interview with Margaret Thatcher she states, in connection with a Conservative leadership election: "That should be decided by rather more than the membership in Parliament — by the Conservative Party."

In saying this she shows that she is in touch with the "grass roots" of the party: national research by Sheffield University, published at the end of last year, showed a majority of Conservatives believed that the party leader should be elected by a system of one member, one vote.

It is time for a National Conservative Party to be created, with a constitution based on the principles of democracy and democratic accountability, and in which there would be national membership in partnership with local associations.

The Conservatives could then turn the spotlight on the undemocratic nature of the Labour Party.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STAFFORD,
Perama, Fulmer Road,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire,
June 16.

From Mr Aidan V. Lyons

Sir, Why all the fuss? Of course John Major is doing things differently, and was not that the very reason why Maggie got the order of the boot?

Regards,
AIDAN V. LYONS,
6a Linden Park Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
June 12.

From Mr K. Davidson-Hall

Sir, I was privileged last evening to attend *The Times/Dillons Forum* in London. How uplifting it was to hear Baroness Thatcher's views at first hand as she expressed, in typically forthright style, the tremendous energy and excitement she radiates.

How vast a gulf there now is between her and her successor. She said that the policies needed were more rather than less conservative. This may be true but, in my view, if they are to succeed we also need the personality to present them.

Mr Major has no natural sense of purpose or direction, without which he finds navigation a problem. Is it any wonder then that he and his administration hit every rock in the ocean with such depressing inevitability? He must step down soon to make way for someone who knows where he (or she) is going.

Yours sincerely,
KEVIN DAVIDSON-HALL,
82 Western Road, Wolverton,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,
June 14.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

ITV's coverage of rugby World Cup

From Mr Piet Theron

Sir, Robert Burrows's article, "Good try, but TV needs conversion" (Media, June 7), raised a good many eyebrows in the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and also some anger.

From the outset of the Rugby World Cup (RWC) '95 project the SABC have been open and straightforward with the licensed broadcasters, making no bones about the fact that we were new boys, willing to learn and to head positive criticism, from our internationally experienced colleagues. Throughout the planning and implementation of this project we have encouraged the licensed broadcasters to express their ideas freely, and we have implemented changes to our procedures where and when necessary.

It was therefore rather disappointing to learn through Mr Burrows, the executive producer of ITV's World Cup team, of this criticism, knowing full well that most of these allegations have not been aired by ITV at the regular briefing and post-mortem sessions since the start of the tournament.

He refers to "a technical nightmare" during the opening day in Cape Town. This is a rather sweeping statement.

We are certainly not aware of any noteworthy bad dreams at that time and our post-mortem meeting of that match, at which ITV were present, did not reveal nightmarish conditions.

Mr Burrows talks about "criticism mounting at the daily briefing sessions" — once again a sweeping statement. We are satisfied that our colleagues, although experiencing frustrations and from time to time having every reason to criticise us, are happy with the manner in which their issues were addressed.

We find ITV's (or is it Mr Burrows's?) attitude incomprehensible. Are they (he) perhaps trying to throw up a convenient smokescreen in order to defend against criticism in the UK pertaining to their scheduling and presentation, and/or to discredit the SABC with RWC officials, their agents and rugby followers in the UK?

Yours etc,
P. J. THERON
(Managing Director,
Rugby Broadcasting (Pty) Ltd.,
South African Broadcasting Corporation,
Henley Road,
Johannesburg, South Africa,
June 14.

Argentine visits to their war dead

From the Ambassador of the Argentine Republic

Sir, I do not wish to engage in controversy regarding Mr Andrew Gurr's letter of June 12, refusing your leading article of June 6, entitled "Thirteen years on". In particular, I do not wish to make a political issue of the suffering of those bereaved by the conflict of 1982.

As your editorial rightly mentions, and Mr Gurr's was confirmed more than a decade after the conclusion of the South Atlantic conflict, some regulations are still applied to visits by Argentine relatives of those who died in 1982. The fact remains that the next-of-kin still have no freedom to visit the graves of their loved ones. This is an absurd situation in urgent need of improvement, as your paper rightly points out.

Finally, in connection with an assertion in the editorial, I would like to clarify that the Argentine offer to clear all mines planted in the islands by our troops in 1982 is not subject to other condition than the acceptance of such proposal by the British Government. There is no connection whatsoever between this issue and the visit of relatives to the graves of Argentine soldiers.

I remain sincerely yours,
ROGELIO PFISTER,
Embassy of the Argentine Republic,
53 Hans Place, SW1,
June 12.

Bradford riots

From Mr Om P. Midha

Sir, Alarmed by the ferocity of the Bradford riots (reports, June 12, 13; leading article, June 13), I incline to the view that the generation of Asian youth born and bred in this country finds itself confused by the cultural norms of its elders, as well as being frustrated by lack of encouragement to integrate with the Western approach to life.

Having been born in India, and after forty years of close involvement in community work here, I feel that police highhandedness is more often than not used as an excuse for perpetration of crime and, simultaneously, for propagating controversial religious beliefs.

Theories about restraint play little part in promoting restraint on anti-social activities, nor do religious constraints inhibit tendencies to vent anger on society. We should not expect police to desist from acting when crime is being committed or to set free culprits to maintain a semblance of harmonious race relations.

In my view, the Bradford youth problem is a national problem; the so-called leaders of the community are powerless to resolve it.

Yours sincerely,
O. P. MIDHA,
1 Woodbine Avenue,
Gosforth,
Newcastle upon Tyne,
June 13.

Living for today

From Mr J. O. Armstrong

Sir, As those of us who have fond memories of the age before political correctness know, the only really worthwhile guiding principle when postponing any action (letters, June 1, 5, 7, 9) is "Do not put off until tomorrow what the wife can be doing today".

Yours faithfully,
J. O. ARMSTRONG,
Thomas de Pye's Mill,
Stonemagh, Warwickshire,
June 9.

From Mrs Pat Hood

Sir, My husband has the perfect philosophy for putting things off. He says one mustn't rush these things as they are all part of a five-year plan. This plan has been ongoing for 32 years.

Yours faithfully,
PAT HOOD,
1 Vardon Drive, Wilmslow, Cheshire,
June 10.

Urgent need to fill vacant bishopric

From Lord Boyd-Carpenter

Sir, May I, as a churchwarden in the Diocese of Winchester, comment on the quite extraordinary letter from Mr Hector McLean, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Appointments Secretary, which you published on June 13.

Mr McLean appears to ignore the two basic facts: one, that the great Diocese of Winchester has been without a bishop now for some months; and secondly, that in view both of the delay and the comments made it will be painfully evident to whoever is appointed that he was not the first choice for the vacancy.

It is pretty common knowledge that it has been very difficult to find a successor to the admirable Dr Colin James. One of the reasons may well be the inadequacy of the stipend in the context of the maintenance of a lovely palace and a great position.

If that is so, it is really urgently up to the Church authorities to restore the position, even if it involves saving the necessary money by abolishing a number of officials in the diocese. The longer the vacancy in one of the great bishoprics is allowed to continue, the more damage is done to the Church, not only in the diocese but generally.

Many of us would say to the Church authorities "Get on with it as a matter of urgency."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
BOYD-CARPENTER,
House of Lords,
June 13.

Priestly commitment

From Mr Robert J. Collinson

Sir, Clergy trade unionists who argued for a stipend of £25,000 a year (report, May 2) would do well to read the Archbishop of York's "Credo" article (June 10). "How I gave up the Services for life as a servant."

The Venerable George Austin recalls that his first stipend as a vicar was the equivalent today of £9,000 a year, but makes the point that "the priesthood is not about money, nor indeed about much that the world holds dear."

Whatever the reality may be, there is a widespread public perception that not all clergy adopt this approach. The same is true of the archdeacon's comment that the clergy should be "servants not rulers".

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT J. COLLINSON,
3 Belvedere Drive,
Chorley, Lancashire,
June 13.

From Lieutenant-Colonel Kate Parsons (ret)

Sir, Having read *Journey to Faith and Affairs of State* by the Archbishop of York and your letters (June 6, 8, 13) about the selection of the new bishop of Winchester, I read with delight the Venerable George Austin's "Credo" on his attitude to the priesthood. Surely it is obvious who the next Bishop of Winchester should be.

Yours faithfully,
KATE PARSONS,
11 De La Hay Avenue,
Plymouth, South Devon,
June 13.

Puss in Boots?

From Ms Judith Thwaite

Sir, You report today that cats help scientists to unlock the secret of sleep. Could I be assured that if I have a squirt of this sleep substance that is siphoned off cats, I will not have dreams filled with bowls of Kire-Kai and be destined to count fields of mice all night?

Yours faithfully,
JUDITH THWAITE,
63 Park Lane, Congleton, Cheshire,
June 9.

From Mrs P. M. Rex

Sir, So scientists have found that cats sleep well and manufacture cis-9,10-octadecenoamide, a substance that triggers sleep. Rather than take it from their brain and spinal cord should we not learn to purr?

Yours faithfully,
GABRIEL REX,
Badenatbar Lodge,
Achillside, Ullapool, Ross-shire,
June 11.

From Mrs Kay Handford

Sir, An assurance of insomnia is occasioned by reading about cats deprived of sleep to find out why human beings cannot sleep.

Yours faithfully,
KAY HANDFORD,
7 Orchard Road,
Burham, Guildford, Surrey.

From Mrs Diana Sturch

Sir, I do not want to sleep as much as my cats.

Yours sincerely,
DIANA STURCH,
68 Pinner Road,
Northwood, Middlesex.

From Mr Adrian Brodwin

Sir, But surely, Mr Segal (letter, June 14), a Moggydon will allow no more than a catnap?

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRODWIN,
93 Kingsley Way, NZ,
June 14.

مكتبة



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 16: The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Green Jackets, arrived at Lydd Airport this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Kent (the Lord Kingsdown KC) and the Colonel-Commandant (Major General Christopher Wallace).

Her Majesty drove to Lydd Camp and was received by the Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion (Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas Parker).

The Queen watched training in progress and met members of the Battalion who had worked on Her Majesty's cancelled visit to the Regiment of October 1994.

Afterwards the Queen honoured the Commanding Officer with her presence at Lunch in the Officers' Mess.

The Countess of Arlue, Mr. Robin Jarman and Major James Patrick were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited Unipart House, Corby, Oxford, and was received by Colonel John Walton (Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire).

Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
June 16: The Prince of Wales today visited Surrey and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (Mr Richard Thornton).

His Royal Highness, Patron, Painshill Park Trust, this morning visited Painshill Park, Cobham.

The Prince of Wales this afternoon opened an exhibition of sculpture by László Marton at the Hannah Peckham Gallery and Sculpture Garden, Oakley.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Abbeyfield, later visited David Gresham House, Oxford.

Mr Stephen Lamport was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
June 16: The Princess of Wales arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Moscow this evening.

Viscountess Campden, Mr. Patrick Johnson and Mr. Geoffrey Crawford were in attendance.

June 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present at a Race Evening held in aid of the Society, at Goodwood Racecourse.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex (Major General Sir Philip Ward).

The Countess Alexander of Tunis was in attendance.

June 16: The Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Somerset and was received on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Sir John Wills Bt).

Her Royal Highness, President, the Royal School of Needlework, visited "The Garden in Embroidery", West of England Festival of Textiles 1995 at Yarnfaring House, Wincanton, and afterwards opened the Second Phase of Taunton and Somerset Hospital, Musgrove Park, Taunton.

Mrs Eileen McCordale was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
June 16: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, today received Lieutenant General Sir Jeremy Reilly, Colonel of the Regiment.

The Duchess of Kent this afternoon attended an exhibition to mark the 180th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, the Wellington Museum, Waterloo, Brussels, Belgium.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended The Duchess of Richmond's Ball, the Cinquantenaire, Brussels, Belgium.

Mr Richard Beckett was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
June 16: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Concert and Banquet, to celebrate the announcement of the 1995 Praemium Imperiale Award Recipients, at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich.

Mrs Peter Afa was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester has become Patron of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies for five years from this month.

Royal engagements

Today: The Queen will take the salute at the Queen's Birthday Parade at 11.00, and will take the salute at a fly past of RAF aircraft from the Balcombe Airfield, Balcombe, at 1.00. The Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and the Duchess of Gloucester will also attend the birthday parade.

Princess Alexandra will visit the RNLI at Arbroath, Angus, at 2.00; and, as patron, will open the new veterinary centre of the Royal Veterinary Dispensary for Sick Animals at 2.11. Hawkhill, Dundee, at 3.30.

Tomorrow: The Duke of York will visit The Duke of York's headquarters, Chelsea, at 10.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Vice-Patron of the Queen's Club, will present the prizes at the men's finals of the Stella Artois golf court championships at the club at 2.25.

Service dinners

HMS Collingwood
Vice-Admiral R. Walsley, Controller of the Navy, was the guest of honour last night at the annual dinner of the Collingwood Club, Collingwood, Devon, held in the Wardroom of HMS Collingwood in Farnham. Captain C.M.C. Crawford presided.

Durham Light Infantry
Colonel L.L. Fleming presided at the annual dinner of the Durham Light Infantry held last night at the Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall.

Kelly College Combined Cadet Force
Rear-Admiral J.P.B. O'Riordan and Major-General David Selwood were the principal guests at the annual dinner of the Kelly College Combined Cadet Force held last night at the Command Centre, Kelly College, Kelly.

The dinner was presided over by the Vice-Patron of the Queen's Club, will present the prizes at the men's finals of the Stella Artois golf court championships at the club at 2.25.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: King Edward I, reigned 1272-1307, London, 1239; John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1703; Charles François Couperin, composer, Paris, 1818; Sir William Crookes, physicist, discoverer of thallium, London, 1832; Igor Stravinsky, composer, Oranienbaum, Russia, 1882; James Cameron, journalist, Barmess, 1911.

DEATHS: John III Sobieski, King of Poland 1674-90, Wilanow, 1696; Joseph Addison, essayist, London, 1719; Sir Edward Burne-Jones, painter, London, 1898; John Cowper Powys, novelist, Blaenau, 1963.

The first kidney transplant operation took place in Chicago, 1950.

Edwin Land patented the Polaroid camera, 1970.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: The Reverend Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh, statesman, Dublin, 1769; Edouard Daladier, Premier of France 1933-34 and 1938-40, Carpentras, 1884.

DEATHS: William Cobbett, politician and writer, Guildford, 1835; Samuel Butler, author of *The Way of Zen*, London, 1902; Ronald A. Hoare, author of *The Englishman's Boy*, London, 1992; Douglas Jardine, Surrey and England cricket captain, Swindon, 1933.

The English were defeated by Joan of Arc at Patay, 1429.

The Battle of Waterloo, 1815.

Weekend birthdays

Today is the Queen's official birthday

Today
Mr Donald Anderson, MP, 56; Lord Barber of Tewkesbury, 77; Mr S.A. Bowles, 60; Lord Leighton of Portsmouth, 63; Sir Michael Caine, former chairman, Booker, 68; Mr R.D.P. Chard, chief executive, Reed International Books, 46; Viscount Cowdray, 51; Dr Andrew Coyle, Governor, British prison, 51; Sir William Dale, legal consultant, 89; Sir Edward Davies, conductor, 71; Sir Patrick Duffy, former MP, 75; Mrs Laura Duncan, Sheriff of Glasgow and Strathkelvin, 49; Sir Patrick Fairweather, diplomat, 59; Sir Stanley Grinstead, former chairman, Reed International, 71; Sir John Marshall, 71; Sir Peter Le Cheminant, 75; Mr Ken Livingstone, MP, 50; Mr Kenneth Loach, television and film director, 59; Mr Hugh MacMahon, MEP, 57; Mr Tony Marlow, MP, 55; Sir Peter Michael, chairman, Classic FM, 57; Miss Estelle Morris, MP, 43; Miss Beryl Reid, actress, 75; Professor Karl Sirkka, oncologist, 47; Lieutenant-Colonel A.M. Spry, former Lord-Lieutenant of Tveddale, 76; Mr Brian Statham, cricketer, 65; Captain R.W.K. Stirling of Fairburn, Lord-Lieutenant of Ross and Cromarty and Skye and Lochalsh, 63; Lord Sudeley, 56; Sir Maldwyn Thomas, former president, Welsh Liberal Party, 77.

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NEWS

'Granny flats' to pay council tax

Families caring for elderly relatives will be forced to pay separate and additional council tax bills on their granny flats after a devastating High Court ruling.

The judgment was attacked by Age Concern as a slap in the face for thousands of carers who save the Government huge sums in health and housing costs for the elderly. Page 1

No policy change, Major tells rebels

John Major warned rebellious Conservative MPs that they could not save the Government by driving him out of office. In an attempt to quell speculation about a leadership challenge he declared that there was no "magic ingredient" for a Tory recovery. Page 1

Birthday honours

The enduring appeal of Cliff Richard is rewarded with a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. Pages 1, 9-11

Kohl rebuffed

Helmut Kohl was rebuffed by John Major when he protested at Shell's action in dumping the Brent Spar oil rig. Pages 1, 2

Serb route attacked

The Bosnian Army dealt a psychological blow to the Serbs by attacking their route between Sarajevo and Pale. Pages 1, 17

Tartan traced

The National Museum of Scotland has traced and reconstructed the tartan worn by Bonnie Prince Charlie after his flight from Culloden. Page 3

First round win

Five disabled pensioners have won the first round in their fight for an increase in community-care funding services. Page 4

Rugby's head girl impresses parents

Parents have inundated Rugby School with inquiries after protests by pupils against the appointment of the first head girl. The school was flooded with requests for information from parents impressed by Louise Woolcock in interviews. Page 12

Change in approach

Lord Woolf called for a change in the approach of judges and lawyers to remedy problems of costs and delay in the civil justice system. Page 5

Crossing peace lines

The handshakes were awkward and the stilted smiles betrayed the trepidation at venturing across Belfast peace lines. Page 6

Traffic threat

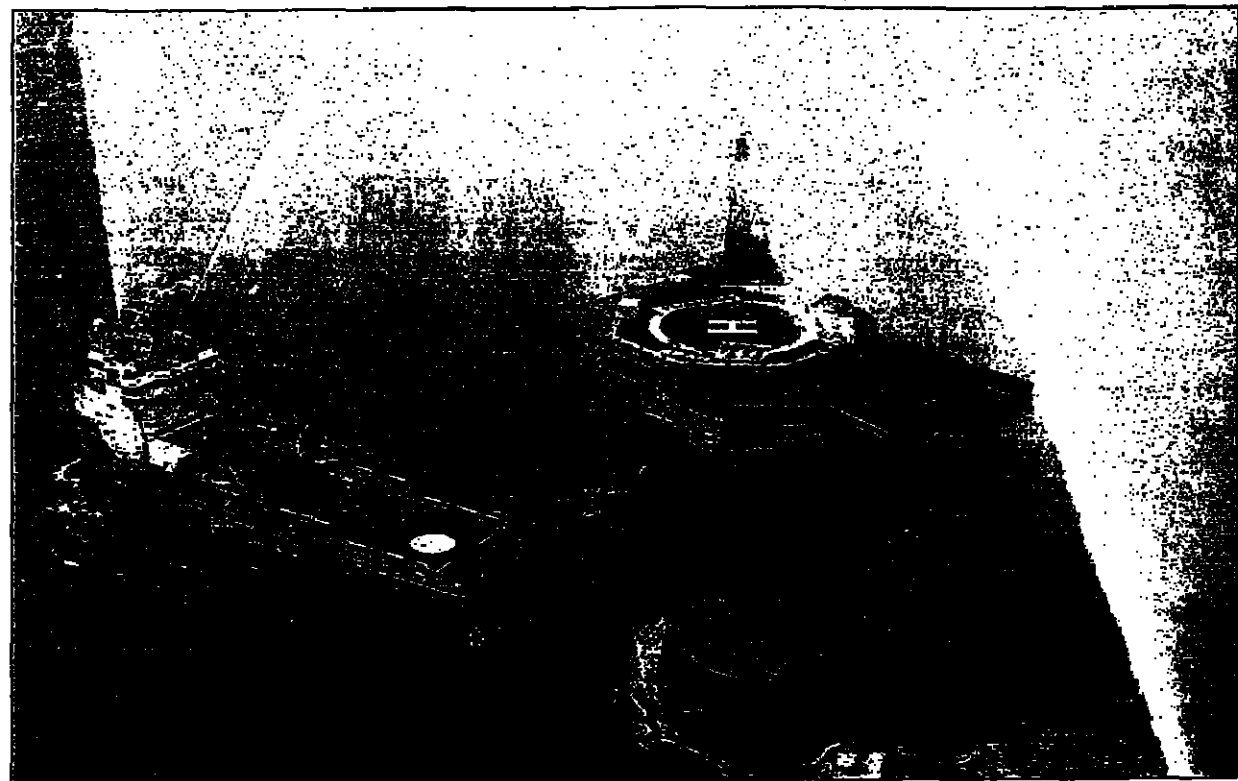
Traffic jams threaten to cut off the West Country as work starts on Britain's biggest roadworks. Page 7

Troops mass

Russian anti-terrorist forces were preparing to storm a hospital where Chechen gunmen are holding 2,000 hostages. Page 15

Yeltsin snubbed

President Yeltsin arrived in Halifax to be told his summit partners did not consider Russia ready to join the G7. Page 16



Two Greenpeace protesters brave water cannon to reoccupy the obsolete Brent Spar oil platform in the north Atlantic yesterday as Shell, the owners, held talks in London over damage to its image. Pages 1, 2

OPINION

In Sarajevo: The UN is a bystander: its 5,000 peacekeepers in Sarajevo can do little but keep track of the fighting and stay out of the line of fire. Page 19

A tax on caring: It is short-sighted and little short of vindictive to pursue those who are saving taxpayers' money by looking after the aged in their own homes. Page 19

Charlie is my bargain: Tartan is about commerce not romance. That was a lesson the Stuarts never managed to learn. Page 19

PAPERS

The Supreme Court dealt a setback to affirmative action programmes. But the court has ruled this way before. Page 19

— The Wall Street Journal

COLLUM

Simon Jenkins: Ask at the visitor centre after Delia's most famous son and you will be shown to the main square and the statue of Grotius, the jurist. Remind them of Vermeer and they will dig out a dusty leader. Page 18

Peter Barnard: Here is the safest pair of shoulders that ever bent before a monarch. Page 18

OBITUARIES

Cousins Fitzwilliam, widow of the 10th Earl: Sidney Golt, international trade specialist: Sheikh Inam, Egyptian singer: Jerry Zipkin, socialite. Page 21

LETTERS

Concern by MEPs in run-up to Cannes meeting. Page 19

Yorkshire: The Yorkshire utilities have scrapped share option schemes for directors in response to the row over windfalls. Page 23

Banking: Directors of Kleinwort Benson will be millions of pounds richer if the takeover by Dresdner bank goes ahead. Page 23

Route 66: The McDonald's food chain has been forced to climb down over its Route 66 restaurant promotion and has reached a settlement with the holders of the trademark. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 4.3 points to close at 3366.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 84.5 to 84.8 after a rise from \$1.5947 to \$1.6077 and from DM2.2501 to DM2.2513. Page 26

Rugby union: Flamboyant rugby will not be on the agenda when England take on New Zealand in the semi-final of the World Cup tomorrow. Pages 42-44

Crickets: The role given to Alec Stewart will determine the shape of the England team to meet West Indies in the second Test. Page 38

Racing: Presenting, third in the Derby, will be given his chance in the Irish Derby at The Curragh. Page 41

Golf: Colin Montgomerie had an anxious wait in the US Open. Page 37

The car with the brains to drive itself: The Mercedes E-class will do everything except steer for you.

MAGAZINE

Deborah Harry: Punk's pin-up is 50, and no longer a blonde, but her star still shines on. Page 18

Stark nakedness: Lucien Freud shows Richard Cork the portraits to be exhibited this summer. Page 18

Arthur Miller: Roy Hattersley talks with a playwright who has kept the faith. Page 27

Picture puzzles: Scientists trace the behavioural evolution of man through cave paintings. Page 32

Fashion: Lingerie moves from underwear to evening wear. Page 40

Food and drink: Jonathan Meades and the most inept restaurant ever. Page 53

WEEKEND

Waterpower: Richard Morris celebrates the seaside and explains how the sea has inspired artists, writers and composers. Pages 1, 3

Soprano, so good: Rodney Milnes meets the diva who has melted hearts. Page 5

Reviews reviewed: How critics continue to be out of touch with the public. Page 5

Shop talk: A guide to who is selling what and where in the nation's summer sales. Page 11

Books: Women in music. Pages 14, 15

Travel: Where to stay and what to eat driving through France. Pages 18-24

VISION

Out of Iceland: Björk sings on *Later With Jools Holland*. Page 3

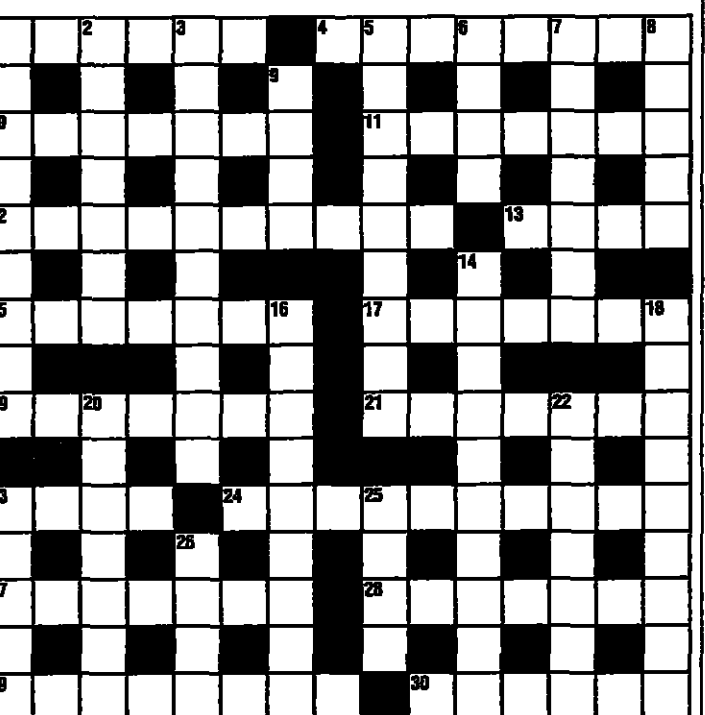
Films of the Week: These include *The Servant* and *Billy Liar*. Page 4

Read and Russell: Oliver and Ken again. Page 20

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,884

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS
- Tolkien's hole-builder in a fireside piece (6)
 - Container for basic soups (recipies taken from town in Greater Manchester) (8)
 - Animal with the most superior brain (7)
 - Endlessly striving for a pain-reliever (7)
 - Chance a lot cooking fish thought to have gone off? (10)
 - Excellent brandy? (4)
 - Appetite for fresh sausage (7)
 - Eight down, say, and worried (7)
 - Rook's early openings beat check (7)
 - Nail-hardener used by a tinker at Inch (7)
 - Woman makes impression on field, opening Hickstead (4)
 - US comedian, as it turns out, is lying (10)
 - Courty English ambassador cut down when carrying letter (7)
 - Rather light melody in *The Trout*, say? (7)
 - Chap, though elderly, is performing several functions at once (8)
- DOWN
- One raises the issue at mealtimes (4-5)
 - Sideshow *toys* who need shin-guards? (7)
 - Fashionable apartment fitted, suitable for gazumping? (10)
 - Stand for serving soldiers (5,4)
 - Old Egyptian reportedly collared? (4)
 - Left one firm to build a colonnade (7)
 - Decimal point perfect, possibly (5)
 - Utter loss from plunder in old Chester (4)
 - Birth and death of a backbiter (10)
 - Basic habitat on a lake (9)
 - Judge in Sark orders last hence (9)
 - Combination of colours just right on sea bird? (7)
 - Pot's rim damaged by plant's response to stimulus (7)
 - Old cold rhubarb (5)
 - Dead astern is simple (4)
 - Man, a little lower? (8)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,878

REFUSE TOLANTHE
A E R T E N
HARDHOOD TUMID
O T N U I T P U
BARDLE NUGLEA
O E H D A
ARETE EUROCRAT
M R S Y H I P M
PREDATES AISE
S O R P N
PROVISE ASPHALT
S S V M A R A
EXTOL INAGURAL
O E E N N E L
HERITAGE DEADLY

Solution to Puzzle No 19,883

CANOPY ICECREAM
A E R F O N E
POTBOILER LAIA
S T M I R A E L A
TILTING BARPLUG
O E H D A
ARETE EUROCRAT
M R S Y H I P M
PREDATES AISE
S O R P N
PROVISE ASPHALT
S S V M A R A
EXTOL INAGURAL
O E E N N E L
HERITAGE DEADLY

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: R Jones, London; D S Thomson, Lincoln; M Sim, Edinburgh; J F Morton, Stowmarket; P J Taylor, Lancaster.

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0800 1500 followed by the code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of England	702
West of England	703
South of England	704
North of England	705
Scotland	706
Wales	707
North Wales	708
South Wales	709
Central Scotland	710
East Scotland	711
West Scotland	712
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West Scotland	792
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Central Scotland	795
East Scotland	796
West Scotland	797
North Wales	798
South Wales	799
Central Scotland	800

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, call 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
East of England	733
West of England	734
South of England	735
North of England	736
Scotland	737
Wales	738
North Wales	739
South Wales	740
Central Scotland	741
East Scotland	742
West Scotland	743
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Central Scotland	796
East Scotland	797
West Scotland	798
North Wales	799
South Wales	800

HOURS OF DARKNESS

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, call 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
East of England	733
West of England	734
South of England	735
North of England	736
Scotland	737
Wales	738
North Wales	739
South Wales	740
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West Scotland	798
North Wales	799
South Wales	800

HIGHEST & LOWEST

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, call 0330 401 followed by the code.

Region	Code
London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
East of England	733
West of England	734
South of England	735
North of England	736
Scotland	737
Wales	738
North Wales	739
South Wales	740
Central Scotland	741
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Central Scotland	796
East Scotland	797
West Scotland	798
North Wales	799
South Wales	800

General: England and Wales will have clear or sunny spells but rain will spread from the west to most places. The rain will be slow to clear, especially in southern parts.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy with rain in the west spreading eastwards.

Clearer, showery weather will follow from the west.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Channel Isles: clear or sunny spells, turning cloudy with rain. Wind west or southwesterly, moderate. Max 18C (64F).

Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, S W England, Central N, NE England: cloudy with rain spreading from the west. Wind southwesterly, moderate. Max 17C (63F).

S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy with rain, turning showery. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Max 15C (59F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: sunny spells with showers. Wind west or southwesterly, moderate or fresh. Max 16C (62F).

Outlook: wet in the south, clearer and showery in the north.

Pollen forecast: Scotland L; Northern Ireland L; Northern Ireland L; Midlands L; East Anglia L; Wales L; South East L; South West L; London L.

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; ds=dust; f=fog; fw=fog; g=gale; h=hail; h=hail; i=ice; m=moderate; m									
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BUSINESS 24

David Lloyd serves a profits rise

WORKING WEEK 25

An Epic saga as pop goes with a bang

SPORT 37-44

South Africa hopes Pienaar's spirit will lift the nation

THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF LLOYDS BANK
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY JUNE 17 1995

Yorkshire utilities end share options

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

TWO Yorkshire utilities have scrapped remunerative share option schemes for their directors in response to the continuing row over option windfalls for directors of privatised companies.

Yorkshire Electricity said yesterday it had abolished the practice of granting senior executives share options, and other bonuses for directors had been scaled back. Malcolm Chatwin, chief executive, said the move was an attempt to anticipate the recommendations of the Greenbury inquiry, which next month is expected to put forward a report on executive remuneration.

The company has scrapped discretionary bonuses and replaced them with new bonus and incentive share schemes, while announcing a 20.5 per cent rise in total pay and perks for Mr Chatwin. His basic salary of £190,000 is raised to almost £317,000 by bonuses and other benefits, although £38,000 of this is deferred for four years under the new share incentive scheme.

Greenbury is thought likely to rule against executive share options in their current form, which offers the chance of substantial enrichment of directors that is not directly linked to their company's performance.

"We think we have got a scheme here which is very close to what Greenbury will propose," Mr Chatwin said.

At the same time Yorkshire Water, which last week reported a £320 million package of customer rebates, higher investment and increased dividends along with results for

1994-95, is understood to have abolished executive share options. The news will be contained in the report and accounts due in a few weeks.

The two decisions are not linked but provide further evidence that quoted companies, and privatised utilities in particular, are severely embarrassed by the row on executive share options.

Chris Hampson, Yorkshire Electricity's chairman, said: "Directors will now be rewarded, beyond their basic salary, only after shareholders have received increased benefits." The company has also moved to head off criticism over executives' remuneration by revealing some boardroom salaries before their formal publication in the report and accounts. "We thought the best thing to do was to come clean about it, because we have nothing to hide," Mr Chatwin said. He added that in a survey of Yorkshire-based companies, most of them much smaller than his own, his new salary put him in 31st place in remuneration terms.

Meanwhile, employment terms for directors have been cut from three to two-year rolling contracts.

Yorkshire was announcing a further sharp jump in profits and dividends, although the rate of increase for the latter was well behind the other regional electricity companies that have reported this year.

Pre-tax profits rose 45.6 per cent to £217 million in the year to end-March, although this was heavily inflated by one-off factors. In particular, Yorkshire received a £17.1 million compensation payment for the cancellation of a deal to take over the Stockholm electricity utility, while rationalisation and reorganisation costs fell from £43.5 million the previous year to £3.7 million. A final dividend of 21.42p makes 30.42p, a like-for-like rise of 15 per cent on the previous year. Earnings per share were 53.5 pence up at 79.11p.

Tempos, page 26



Sir James Blyth, of Boots, who is created a peer, is one of the UK's top-paid executives



A knighthood for David Simon of BP

Honours span all of industry

SIR John Cuckney, the former Westland chairman who went on to broker a multi-million pound deal for Maxwell pensioners, has been created a life peer in the Queen's Birthday Honours (Jon Ashworth writes). He and Sir James Blyth, 55, deputy chairman and chief executive of Boots, the chemist group, head a list that spans all corners of British industry. Sir James is one of the UK's top-paid executives, earning £880,000 last year.

There are knighthoods for Terry Harrison of Rolls-Royce, David Simon of BP, Peter Hunt of Land Securities, Michael Bett of the Training and Enterprise Council, Richard George, chairman and managing director of Weetabix, and Michael Cobham, who retires next month after 26 years as chairman of Cobham, a Dorset aerospace engineering company. Sir Terence Burns, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, is appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. Nicholas Durlacher, chairman of Life, and Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, are appointed CBE. Others include John Towers of Rover Group, Kit Jebens, former chief executive of the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation and Leif Mills, general secretary of the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union.

Full list, pages 9 to 11
Tempos, page 26



Honours for Terry Harrison, left, Nicholas Durlacher and Sir John Cuckney

G7 explores ways to improve handling of economic crises

FROM JANET BUSH IN HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

THE Group of Seven industrialised countries yesterday agreed to explore ways to strengthen the world's ability to deal with economic collapses after the incompetent way the Mexico crisis was handled this year.

The finances of the International Monetary Fund, which came in for considerable criticism for its handling of Mexico, should be strengthened. There are various proposals on the table, which officials will seek to flesh out in the months before the autumn

meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington. At the same time, Jacques Santer, president of the European Commission, who attended yesterday's sessions, suggested that the mutual economic surveillance practised in Europe under the Maastricht Treaty should be adopted by the G7.

Pushing his alternative model for world economic surveillance, he said that those countries which did not perform on criteria such as inflation and deficit control would

be criticised publicly. Just as the European Commission might issue a critical report on a country's performance, the IMF could do the same for G7 and other countries. He said that the framework already in place in Europe could be an inspiration for the rest of the world.

International discussions between finance ministers have been dominated by the perceived failure to head off the crisis in Mexico and the messy way in which emergency funds were then found. Yesterday,

there were various proposals on the table. British officials said the next step would be an "outreach programme" to build wider support for a new emergency financing mechanism at the IMF and, in more general terms, reform of the IMF and other Bretton Woods institutions.

One suggestion is the doubling of an existing \$28 billion pool of funds under the IMF's general arrangements to borrow, paid for by the top ten industrial economies plus Saudi Arabia. Another possibility is to raise funds for an emergency pool from some of the richer developing nations, particularly in the Pacific Rim, such as Korea. Brazil has been mentioned as another possible candidate.

Another proposal, floated by the US delegation, is for the IMF to act as a kind of bankruptcy court. A country such as Mexico which found itself in difficulty could be protected from its creditors in a US-style Chapter 11 arrangement while a financial aid package is put in place.

Britain was yesterday disappointed with continuing opposition to its proposal that the IMF should sell some of its gold reserves in order to provide more heavily subsidised lending to the world's poorest countries.

McDonald's leaves Route 66

By JON ASHWORTH

THE McDonald's fast-food business has been forced to climb down over its Route 66 restaurant promotion.

The group has reached an out-of-court settlement with the holders of the Route 66 trademark, in spite of saying that it would vigorously defend "its right to use the name of the American highway."

Andre and Maralide Levy issued a writ against McDonald's in February, claiming damages over use of a registered trademark.

McDonald's agreed to settle this week, shortly before the case was due before the High Court. The settlement includes an amount for damages, full payment of legal costs, and an undertaking to destroy all infringing material. The group has pledged not to use the Route 66 theme again.

The result is a largely symbolic victory for the Levys, who registered Route 66 with a view to launching branded products. Route 66 cigarettes

are on sale, and the Levys hope that Route 66 drinks and clothes will follow.

McDonald's agreed to a settlement without admitting liability. Its Route 66 promotion ran for two months this year at a reputed cost of £5 million.

The Levys are pursuing a separate action against ABN Amro, the Dutch bank, over alleged non-payment of \$4 million said to have been destined for Route 66 product development.

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3398.1	(-4.5)
Yield	4.12%	
FT-SE All share	1642.04	(-1.25)
Nikkei	14703.17	(-164.06)
New York	4509.75	(+13.48)
Dow Jones	538.99	(+1.87)
S&P Composite		

US 10yr	6.75%	(0.00%)
Federal Funds	11.25%	(1.19%)
Long Bond	6.64%	(8.80%)
Yield		

3-mth Interbank	6.75%	(0.00%)
Life long	105.25%	(106.4)
Future (June)		

New York	1.8075	(1.8010)
\$ London	1.8075	(1.8010)
DM	2.2514	(2.2528)
DM	7.5050	(7.5057)
SFR	1.2557	(1.2557)
SFR	135.56	(135.27)
Yen	94.8	(94.5)
\$ Index		

SSS\$		
\$\$\$		
London	1.4020	(1.4057)
DM	4.8210	(4.8230)
FR	1.1625	(1.1645)
Yen	94.06	(94.57)
\$ Index		

Tokyo close Yen 84.35		
North Sea Oil		
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$17.20	(\$17.30)
Oil		
London close	\$39.05	(\$39.15)

* denotes midday trading price		
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Tax cut threat

Lower corporation tax receipts and lower payments from Customs and Excise forced up Government borrowing during May. If the trend continues throughout the year then the Chancellor's scope for tax cuts will become more limited in the Budget.

Page 24

WEEKEND MONEY

29

Anne Ashworth on investors' compensation



INSURANCE

27

The perils of a household insurance claim



30

Tessas. The next generation of accounts

TAX

31

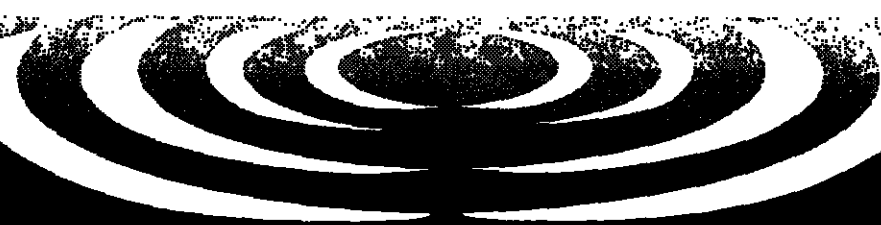
The new gilts tax. How you could be affected



INVESTMENT

33

Corporate bond Peps. Delays and difficulties



"We've invested £20 million over the last 2 years in our Merseyside plant. Over recent years our productivity for comparable products has been higher than other Kodak sites around the world. When recruiting staff for our new facilities, the quality of applicants has surpassed our expectations".

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مکانی

Matra wants three-way space group merger

By ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

MATRA Marconi Space, the Franco-British satellite group, is demanding a three-way merger of Europe's leading space companies to create a continent-wide champion with annual sales approaching £1.5 billion.

Lagardere Groupe, which partners Britain's General Electric Company in MMS, is pressing to join a merger agreed in outline between the satellite businesses of Aérospatiale of France and Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa) of Germany.

Noel Forgeard, the outspoken boss of Lagardere's defence business, has appealed to the new right-of-centre French Government

President Chirac for inclusion in the link-up. Lagardere says it is also speaking for GEC, which holds 49 per cent of MMS. "We are completely in step," said a Matra spokesman.

Matra, which is proud of its aggressive private sector approach, claims that a three-way rationalisation could cut costs substantially and create a European satellite champion with the scale and efficiencies to match rivals in America.

The company has led the way in rationalising the European industry. It merged its space business with that of GEC last year, taking 51 per cent against GEC's 49 per cent. The combined company then bought the space business of British Aerospace.

Bernard Pons, the French Transport Minis-

ter, this week signalled his Government's enthusiasm to reduce state intervention in the aerospace industry.

In a ground-breaking statement at the Paris Air Show, he said France was now receptive to appeals from Dasa and British Aerospace, which has 20 per cent of the shares, to turn Airbus Industrie, the European airliner consortium, into a limited company.

Louis Gallois, chairman of Aérospatiale, has given warning that conversion from a special-status Groupement d'Intérêt Économique (GIE) could land the partners a £7 billion (£900 million) tax bill.

However, M Pons said he would lobby the French Treasury to lighten the burden. He said: "Everyone is agreed that the GIE has to adapt

and that we want it to evolve into an integrated company."

Meanwhile, Matra is telling the French Government that a satellite link-up would enable the cost of France's Stentor civil communications satellite programme to be cut by £200 million.

Plans for a space systems merger between France's state-owned Aérospatiale group and its putative German private-sector partner are already well advanced. Outline agreement has been reached, but they have yet to carry out due-diligence inquiries, and must seek formal government approvals. Matra insists it is not too late for a three-way deal. "We have had a fair hearing from the authorities," the spokesman said.

Borrowing soars after shortfall in tax receipts

By COLIN NARBROUGH

LOWER than expected receipts from corporation tax and Customs and Excise were the main factors behind a big rise in public sector borrowing last month that cast doubt on the Government's ability to hit its full-year target.

An overshoot on the target for the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) would reduce the scope for Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to make the tax cuts regarded among Conservatives as vital to the party's re-election chances.

Mr Clarke forecast a £21.5

billion deficit for the fiscal year to the end of March 1996, down from £34.3 billion last year. But the figures published yesterday showed a PSBR of £4.15 billion last month, which brought the cumulative deficit to £8 billion only two months into the fiscal year.

This represents a reduction of only 5.5 per cent compared with the same period last year and many City economists said they now expected Mr Clarke to have to lift his prediction for the full year in his summer forecast on June 28.

Although corporation tax receipts are expected to recover when the usual surges in receipts occur in July and October, economic slowdown, largely reflecting consumer wariness, is likely to continue to make inroads into government receipts.

Alex Garrard, UK economist at UBS, foresees the full-year PSBR rising to £25.7 billion. David Hillier, economist at NatWest Markets, predicted a deficit of about £23.5 billion.

The May PSBR figures also contained a downward revision of the April deficit to £3.8 billion. The Treasury underlined that May was usually a big borrowing month and that it was still early days to judge the full-year picture.

Market forecasts for the May PSBR had centred on £3.45 billion.

Yesterday's disappointing

data followed the rise in inflation reported on Thursday, which cast doubt on Mr Clarke's ability to achieve his central target for core inflation of 2.5 per cent.

The targeted measure of retail price inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments, rose to an annual 2.7 per cent in May from 2.6 per cent in April.

Gold was fixed at \$391.30 in London, unchanged from the five-week peak it hit yesterday morning and holding on to strong gains made on Thursday.

The higher gold price was seen as a reflection of market uncertainty as the Group of Seven summit prepared its economic communiqué in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Dealers said the attitudes of American funds would decide which way gold would move next week.

Analysts and traders will on Monday start the World Gold Conference in Lugano, Switzerland. One of the key issues will be what happened to the 175 tonnes of gold sold by the Belgian central bank earlier this year.

Most companies see the economic recovery in Britain as "somewhat fragile" and continue to suffer from low business confidence, according to Coopers & Lybrand's May regional trends survey. The survey supported the view that there is little underlying economic reason for higher interest rates.



David Lloyd has served up an 18 per cent profit rise

Healthy growth at David Lloyd

By PHILIP PANGALOS

DAVID Lloyd Leisure, the tennis to healthclub group run by the former tennis star David Lloyd, served up another ace as strong organic growth helped pre-tax profits to advance by 18 per cent, to £3.5 million, in the six months to March 31.

Growing membership at David Lloyd's existing clubs was the main factor behind the profits increase, although a new ten-pin bowling club at Eastbourne also helped. Turnover grew by 30 per cent, to £14.3 million, with the total number of memberships up by 9.3 per cent, to 23,768.

David Lloyd, the company chairman, and captain of the British Davis Cup team, said: "We are seeing good organic growth from existing clubs and the new ten-pin bowling club in Eastbourne. Membership levels are encouraging at our new club in Bristol and while levels at Birmingham have been building more slowly, the club is making a positive contribution."

Mr Lloyd said: "The recent programme of acquiring and developing new sites is now bearing fruit, and the outlook for the group is excellent."

The interim dividend rises by 17 per cent, to 1.7p (1.45p) and is payable on August 15. Earnings per share were 21 per cent up, at 5.73p (4.73p). Gearing crept up to 63 per cent at the interim stage, against 14 per cent a year earlier and 40 per cent at the last year end.

The company has appointed Jim Clarke finance director. Mr Clarke, who has been financial controller of HP Bulmer since 1992, succeeds David Gray, who resigned as finance director in February for personal reasons.

Analysts are looking for full-year profits of about £9 million this year, with £12 million pencilled in for next year. The shares eased 1p, to 264p.

Storehouse doubles bonus to Edelman

KEITH EDELMAN, chief executive at Storehouse, the BHS to Mothercare group, saw his pay rise 10 per cent to £666,410 last year, according to the company's annual report. The rise reflected a doubling in his bonus to £140,000.

The annual report also shows that Ann Iverson, the former head of Mothercare, made a £179,045 profit by exercising share options before she left the group last June. She exercised 153,030 share options, granted at 99p in May 1991, and sold the shares at 216p. All her outstanding share options lapsed when she left and she received no compensation. Earlier this week, Miss Iverson announced that she is to join Laura Ashley next month as chief executive. While Mr Edelman was the highest-paid director last year, in the previous year, Miss Iverson received the biggest pay package, totalling £495,986.

Acorn delivers warning

ACORN COMPUTER GROUP said yesterday that tough market conditions in the United Kingdom for personal computers would adversely affect its first-half results. The problems have come in spite of a strong showing by the Risc PC, Acorn's flagship computer model, and a performance in line with expectations at its associated company Advanced Risc Machines. The shares fell 2 1/2p to 90p. Acorn, which is 58.9 per cent owned by Olivetti, of Italy, incurred pre-tax losses of £3.4 million in 1994 after restructuring and a £1.3 million loss at its core UK business. It launched a £17.2 million rights issue in February.

SNC South Africa deal

SMITH New Court is to buy 51 per cent of Davis Borkum Flare & Co (DBF), the South African corporate broker, as part of its plan to expand into the South African market. The acquisition is subject to the implementation of planned changes to South African legislation. At present, overseas firms cannot buy into local stockbroking businesses. Smith New Court said the necessary changes in legislation are expected to be passed within the next few months. On Thursday, it said it had appointed Derek Keys, former South African Minister of Finance under Nelson Mandela, as a non-executive director.

Microsoft case upheld

A FEDERAL appeals court has upheld the Justice Department's controversial antitrust settlement with Microsoft, the computer software group. The appeals court said the settlement, reached nearly a year ago, was in the public interest and ruled that a federal judge in February exceeded his legal authority in rejecting the accord. Under the consent decree, Microsoft agreed to change the way that it licensed its products to personal computer manufacturers to settle charges that its practices effectively excluded rival operating systems and stifled competition in violation of antitrust laws.

Scotia £33m placing

SCOTIA HOLDINGS, the biotechnology company, is raising £33.5 million through a placing and open offer to fund research and development, expand manufacturing facilities and establish a commercial infrastructure to market pharmaceutical and nutritional products. Investors are offered one new share for every seven held at 380p each. Yesterday, existing shares rose 18p to 439p. Scotia has recently made breakthroughs in its development products and has filed applications for product licences. The company was floated on the stock market in October 1993.

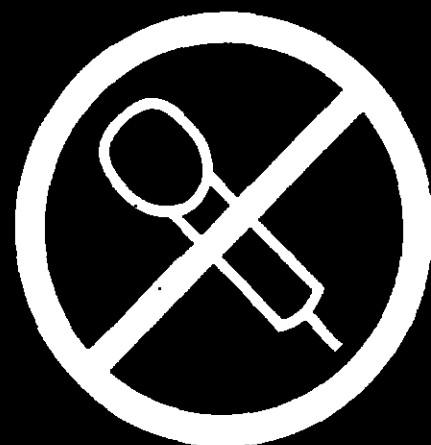
Publisher appointed

LACHLAN KEITH MURDOCH has been appointed publisher of The Australian newspaper, based in Sydney, and will join the board of News Limited. Mr Murdoch, formerly general manager of Queensland Newspapers, will take up the role next month. Mr Murdoch is deputy chairman of the board of directors of STAR Television, a subsidiary of The News Corporation, parent company of The Times. He is also a director of Beijing EDN Xinren Information Technology, a joint venture between News Corp and China's People's Daily.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.30
Austria Sch	16.85
Belgium Fr	48.25
Canada \$	2.15
Cyprus CypL	0.751
Denmark Kr	9.36
Finland Mk	7.47
France Fr	6.30
Germany Dm	2.41
Greece Dr	379.00
Hong Kong \$	13.00
Ireland Pt	1.08
Israel	5.2922
Italy Lit	2785.00
Japan Yen	150.00
Malta	0.92
Netherlands Gld	2.573
Norway Kr	10.60
Portugal Esc	248.00
S Africa Rd	1.00
Spain Ps	202.00
Sweden Kr	12.25
Switzerland Fr	2.00
Turkey Lira	80.00
USA \$	1.98

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Hardy sets aside £25m for cutback

By CARL MORTIMER

HARDY Oil & Gas, the independent exploration group, is making provisions of £25 million for the cost of restructuring, involving asset sales and withdrawal from non-core projects.

The exceptional provision pushed Hardy into a net loss of £28.8 million for the year to March, compared with last year's profit of £7.2 million. The decision to withdraw from certain projects follows a rethink of strategy initiated by John Walmsley, Hardy's chief executive.

Hardy has written down the value of its Canadian assets by £15 million and expects a sale to be concluded this year. The company is absorbing £10 million of exploration costs after a decision to pull out of projects in The Netherlands, Libya, Namibia and Algeria. Hardy's revenues fell from £61 million to £51 million.

Tempus, page 26

THE SUNDAY TIMES What happened to the rising sun?

As the Nikkei index hits a three-year low, fears grow over Japan's banking system and slowing economy. And with the yen soaring and exports under pressure, Tokyo stockmarket traders are close to panic...
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TESSA TEST 30

Building societies and banks want you to reinvest

WEEKEND MONEY

TARNISHED GILT 31

Bonds and their by-products face taxing times



Liz Dolan reports on a couple's fight for fair compensation after losing everything in a blaze

Final straw for victims of house fire

Everybody knows how insurance is supposed to work. You pay premiums to cover you against an eventuality that you hope will never happen. If disaster strikes, the insurance company holds your hand and makes good any loss. If nothing ever goes wrong, at least you have been able to sleep easy. That is the theory. In practice, it is not always that simple.

One summer's day nearly two years ago, a tractor and trailer carrying ten tonnes of straw burst into flames and collapsed on to a stone cottage in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire. Tony Ewence, its owner, recalled: "My wife and I had just finished a cup of tea and were listening to *The Archers* when the tractor drew up in front of our window. Funny, I said to my wife, I didn't order any straw and, just at that moment, the whole lot caught fire and fell on our house."

Luckily, neither he nor Mary, his wife, was seriously injured, although Mr Ewence spent eight hours in hospital after dislocating a finger and cutting his face in the rush to escape the fire. The family, including the Ewences' son,

who had been out when the fire started, moved in with a cousin for the six months it took to rebuild the property.

While accepting liability for the damage, Eagle Star, the insurer, initially refused to make any interim payment. "I said: how would you feel if you were left in the clothes you stood up in and nothing else? I wrote and asked the chief executive how he'd feel if it had happened to his family," says Mr Ewence. "I was told we had no right to an interim payment. They finally agreed to come up with some money, but I had to fight for everything we got."

Disputed claims included one for 17 pairs of trousers — Mr Ewence's and his son's. "The loss adjuster said: we'll only pay for three because all the others must have been very old. It was ridiculous." He also had to fight for "a decent amount to be released to cover the costs of looking after the three of us for all that time," he says. Possessions saved from the fire, including a microwave, a hi-fi and 350 CDs, were stored in one of the few rooms left standing. But the whole lot was later stolen, boosting the initial £65,000

claim by a further £6,000. While physically unharmed, Mary Ewence is still suffering depression brought on by "losing 40 years of treasures, everything we owned, every stitch of clothing".

The family wants to claim for pain and distress, but cannot afford to take the tractor owner to court. The policy included legal expense cover, but "the loss adjuster said we couldn't use it because no one was severely injured or died."

The Ewences are now hoping to piggy-back on any court case brought by Eagle Star for the recovery of part, or all, of its own costs from the tractor owner's insurer. But, as the insurer appears to have taken nearly two years to establish ownership of the tractor, this may prove a vain hope, even though Eagle Star is adamant that it wants to recover the money. Meanwhile, Mr Ewence struggles to pay a solicitor to handle his own side of the compensation case.

The Ewences' experience is not unusual. George Bird, who experienced similar problems with a claim for his mother from Sun Alliance, started the Sun Alliance Action Group (SAAG) a few



Tony Ewence, above, with his rebuilt cottage today and, below, a picture taken at the moment of the fire that almost destroyed it two years ago

years ago to support its policyholders who were having difficulties with claims.

He agrees policyholders should never give in to insurers if they consider they are being treated unreasonably. Witness the following substance cases, all backed by SAAG:

Mr and Mrs G were initially offered £160,000 in 1989. The insurers eventually settled last month after being threatened with a writ. The settlement figure was £310,000.

An initial offer of £1,500 to Mrs B was revised three years later. The final payout is expected to be closer to £50,000.

Mr and Mrs H were offered £3,000 to fund what the action group's structural engineer considered to be an inadequate repair scheme. The Hs issued a writ. After much argument, the final settlement approached £75,000.



WEEKEND MONEY IS EDITED BY ANNE ASHWORTH

Robert Miller and Morag Preston look at a worrying development

FORMER salesmen of Knight Williams, the controversial independent adviser that specialised in retirement income planning, have been trying to poach their KW clients.

One salesman who sent letters to former KW clients did so on Westfield Business and Financial Services stationery. This firm is part of DBS Management, the UK's largest network of independent financial advisers. Ken Davy, chairman of DBS, said that the adviser had not yet been accepted for membership and promised to investigate the approach as a matter of urgency.

Singer & Friedlander, the merchant bank that has taken over £400 million of assets formerly held by Knight Williams, said this week that it had documentary evidence of other approaches being made by at least half-a-dozen former KW salesmen. Tony Fraher, chief executive of Singer & Friedlander's fund management arm, strongly condemned the poaching attempts and said investors should avoid such approaches.

Thousands of worried KW

Former salesmen contact Knight Williams clients

investors have been attending Singer & Friedlander roadshows, which started on Monday and continue until the end of the month, to hear further details of the takeover and to have their questions answered. As part of the deal, the merchant bank has promised KW investors that they will never have to pay front-end charges again and that any switches between different funds now listed under Singer & Friedlander will be made free of charge.

Mr Fraher said: "It is quite disgraceful and very unsettling to investors to be subject to these approaches by their former advisers. If investors did take their advice and move their portfolios before they have had a chance to evaluate

what we are offering they will inevitably have to pay initial charges to a new fund manager when money is re-invested."

Singer & Friedlander has paid about £16 million for the former KW funds, which have now been transferred to the merchant bank's investment funds based in Dublin. The money has not been paid for the benefit of KW's directors or other people connected with the company.

It will be used to pay compensation to hundreds of investors who have made claims against KW through a specially designated complaints handling procedure established by the Securities and Investments Board, the chief City regulator, after it was inundated by complaints

from the Knight Williams Action Group, led by Kenneth Jordan. The SIB has received 403 compensation claims and these are now being assessed. Those who qualify can expect to receive their payments sometime in August.

Meanwhile, landlords who let office space to Knight Williams have been told by the firm that it could "go bust" if it is not allowed to surrender its lease for a fraction of the value it is bound to pay.

Jeremy Orme, head of enforcement at SIB, and Richard Britton, head of casework at SIB, have agreed to meet Mr Jordan, on July 3, to discuss complaints, including compensation for the 40 action group members not protected by the 1986 Financial Services Act.

Singer & Friedlander's 30 nationwide roadshows consist of two one-hour presentations every working day at 11.30am and 6.30pm. A video of the roadshow held in Bristol will be sent to 16,500 former Knight Williams investors. For details of the seminars, telephone 0500 505001.

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East, West, home is best

The pattern of the markets in recent weeks has been suggestive. Wall Street especially rises on good news of profits, but also on bad news of impending recession, which means lower interest rates, but also a profit squeeze. (It does take needless fright about inflation, though.) The odd "correction" is quickly unwound as the underlying rise resumes. This is the behaviour of a market driven not by news, but by money. It is strongly reminiscent of the 1987 market boom and crash, when stock prices set endless records in spite of general though mistaken forecasts of a recession, and then crashed 30 per cent at the first small rise in interest rates.

There are differences, to be sure. In 1987, the excess of bond yields over equity yields reached an all-time record; now it looks fairly normal, thanks to the bond market boom. On the other hand, there was no recession in 1987, but it already looks likely that US GDP fell in the second quarter and could well fall again in the third. Even if this is followed by a bounce, that meets the official definition of a recession. But a bounce is not guaranteed, though most Americans still expect it. Export growth is constrained by austerity in some important Latin American markets. The investment boom will surely slow if sales stagnate, and the federal spending squeeze looks real.

This is not an encouraging outlook. Profits have been growing astonishingly; but now even the consensus (which I regard as optimistic) looks only for a

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

ANTHONY HARRIS

further 5 per cent increase. So why are stock prices setting new records most days? Mainly because of a sharp change in the pattern of financial flows. Until the Mexican crisis, US investors were looking increasingly overseas, and especially to the emerging markets, for opportunity. But now US investors have turned home for safety, while companies export plant and jobs, at the expense of US workers. Meanwhile, the \$50 billion of American aid for Mexico is promptly recycled in debt repayment, and so stays in Wall Street. Add it all up, and you have a weak economy, a weak dollar, but a strong stock market.

Cash-driven markets like this may have different causes, but they share one characteristic: they overshoot. This buying climax is strictly speculative prices rise because they are rising. This can be a period of maximum opportunity for investors, but it is also a time of maximum risk: any surprise can lead to second thoughts; this time it will

probably be good news about growth, and thus bad news about interest rates. The correction, when it does come, will be sudden and sharp, as it was in 1987. Only the most cautious will want to bale out at this stage; but it is not perhaps too early for a programme of judicious profit-taking on your US holdings.

As Wall Street goes, so go world markets: so all this implies some caution about your British holdings, too. But don't overdo it. The main reason could hardly be simpler: Wall Street prices now look stretched in relation to underlying values, but London prices remain undemanding. The prospective dividend yield is the highest for any major market; and even if you discount this as caused by excessive profit distribution, the prospective p/e ratio, projected at 12.5 on an international consensus estimate cited by Charterhouse, looks modest.

The economic outlook appears better here than in the US, for while its fiscal squeeze is only beginning, Britain's may soon start to relax. London stock prices reflect the expectation of slow growth this year, but they do not yet discount a 1996 recovery. And as time passes, foreign investors will surely begin to appreciate the attraction of London stocks, and indeed bonds. They have been understandably cautious in the light of sterling's weakness, of Britain's economic past and of its likely political future; but both we and new Labour deserve better. Which is more than you can say for any other market which springs to mind.

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Helen Pridham says take care when buying permanent health cover

Warning: policies can damage your health

The tragic accident suffered recently by Christopher Reeve, the American actor, has illustrated graphically how disability can strike anyone at any time. It also shows the devastating effect it can have on someone's career and financial future.

Not all disabilities, though, are as clear-cut in how they affect work ability — at least not as far as the insurance companies that provide permanent health insurance, or income protection cover, are concerned. This can sometimes make claiming benefits difficult as some readers such as Anthony Sareen, a former dentist, have found.

Mr Sareen developed "the dental equivalent of repetitive strain injury" in 1988 and was granted ill-health early retirement by his employers. "They considered me permanently unfit for my job," he said.

But his insurance company has proved more difficult to convince of his continuing disability. Though his claim for benefits was accepted, payments stopped after 18 months over misunderstandings about a medical report. Only after resort to the Insurance Ombudsman did Mr Sareen get them reinstated. Even so, he said, the company "persists in trying to find me capable".

Another reader, who divided his time between two occupations but became disabled in one and was granted ill-health retirement, is aggrieved that his insurance company has turned down his claim for a proportionate benefit. The Insurance Ombudsman has received a rising tide of complaints about permanent health insurance policies in recent years. In 1991 only 18 cases were dealt with, a year later the number rose to 91. By 1994 it had reached 192, with the Ombudsman deciding for policyholders in one out of three. At present, many insurance companies extol the virtues of taking out income-protection policies to provide financial security in the event

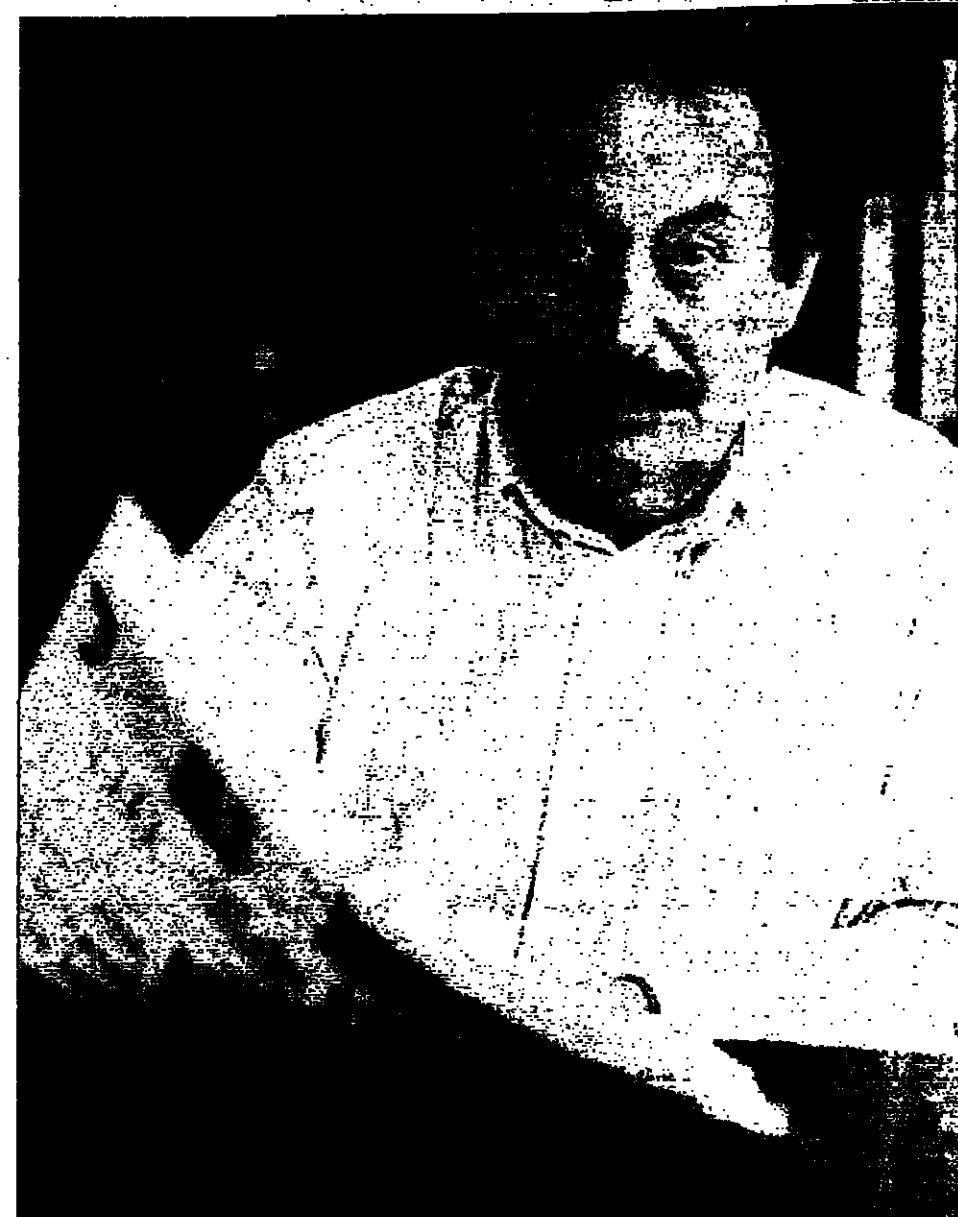
How to pay your bills if sickness strikes

The Times of May 21

of long-term incapacity. Recent cutbacks in state sickness benefits have added greater relevance to their message.

But policyholders may find cover is not as extensive as they hoped. The most generous policies are those that allow you to claim if your incapacity means you are unable to perform your "own occupation". Some companies, though, add a rider stating that you must also be incapable of carrying out any other occupation for which you are "suited by education or training" before they will pay benefits. But the most onerous are those that require you to be incapable of "any occupation".

Though there are no precise figures for the number of claims that are turned down, Karen Lloyd, claims manager at Swiss Re, the reinsurer, estimated it is in the region of 5 per cent to 10 per cent. "The two most common reasons for turning down claims are because of non-disclosure of a complaint already suffered, or because their incapacity does not meet the insurer's definition," she said. Even companies with the broad "own occupation" definition do not always pay out. A situation that is particularly galling for policyholders is where they are granted ill-health early retire-



Anthony Sareen found his insurers caused a great deal of pain after he claimed

ment but their insurance claim is then turned down on the ground that they are still capable of performing their occupation. The explanation, said Ms Lloyd, is that the criteria used by employers and pension schemes to determine whether someone should be given ill-health early retirement are different from those used by insurers to ascertain

whether someone is capable of doing their job. Policyholders find this difficult to accept.

"Insurers are coming up against this situation more and more," Ms Lloyd said. "The problem is that a minor illness is often used as an excuse to allow someone to retire early particularly where employers are looking to shed jobs, or make everyone 100 per cent productive. In the insurer's view, though, such an illness does not necessarily make a person totally incapable of doing their job." Where someone has more than one job, insurers normally say you must be incapable of both before they will pay out.

Even if a claim is accepted, an insurance company will be keen to see a policyholder return to work if his or her condition improves. Regular medical evidence is often required, to see if a change has occurred. Mr Sareen said: "Insurance companies seem to have no objective criteria as to what constitutes incapacity. Doctors who examined me frequently had no expert knowledge of dentistry and I am not allowed to see their reports."

Andrew Chapman, of Medical Sickness, Mr Sareen's insurer, explained: "It is prudent business practice for permanent health insurers to monitor the medical condition of claimants. The nature and frequency of such checks will depend on the type of incapacity."

"We do not feel it would be appropriate to have strict criteria about what constitutes incapacity. No illness is exactly like another and if we did have black and white rules we believe that we would end up rejecting more claims than we do at present."

TAX ON PEP BENEFITS

A COMPLAINT from a Scottish reader directed against the Government rather than insurance companies is that permanent health benefits are taxed. He argues that if mortgage protection policyholders are to be spared paying tax, so should recipients of permanent health benefits. Currently, benefits are tax free for the first year and after that tax is deducted at source. The Association of British Insurers, which is discussing this issue with the Inland Revenue, said: "We are arguing that it is an anomaly that PHI benefits should be treated differently to mortgage protection benefits."

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Source: Medi-Quote 11/5/95

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Will the SIB watchdog learn to bite?

A question that has, for some time, been preoccupying Whitehall should now also be posed by everyone with a pension, or any other type of investment: what function does the Securities and Investments Board serve?

The SIB (or Sib, to give the organisation its appropriately ineffectual sounding acronym) is the chief investment watchdog. But, recently, it has been proving itself to be more of an expensively turned-out poodle than a doberman. The SIB is hand-somely housed, produces reams of reports, resplendent with sub-clauses, but its voice is increasingly an irritating yap. Worse yet, the organisation is failing in one of its most important functions.

A prime requirement of an investor protection body is to run a compensation scheme for those who have been defrauded, or badly advised,



ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance
Editor

But, not for the first time, the SIB seems less than devoted to this duty, a big justification for its high-priced existence (budgeted to cost £21.7 million in 1995-96, most of it funded indirectly by investors).

As revealed in *The Times*, the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS), seldom in its seven-year history a stranger to crisis, is close to running out of cash. Unless the SIB can find a way out of this latest fiasco, emergency legislation may have to be rushed through Parliament to bail

out the scheme. At stake is the recompense due to those who relied on the complex regulatory system, presided over by the SIB.

Behind the troubles at the ICS lie problems at a junior watchdog body, the Personal Investment Authority. The PIA was expected to pay its £15.8 million contribution to the ICS, but has been forced to postpone its levy of members by a legal challenge from a member, Sun Life.

Supported, so it is said, by other big insurers, Sun Life believes that it should not

have to pay for the mistakes of financial advisers. Whatever the rights and wrongs of this argument, the SIB should never have allowed the situation to deteriorate to this extent. But perhaps it does not realise that the court action is as much about a loss of faith in the SIB as money. If he values his job, Andrew Large, chairman of the SIB must now resolve the situation. Or consider his future.

Guilt-edged

SUDDENLY this week people have started to wake up to what the proposed reform to the taxation of gilts and corporate bonds mean. Or don't mean, depending on your interpretation of the Revenue's obscure pronouncements on the subject.

Various aspects of the measures, under which gilts profits would be taxed as income,

remain unclear, although, alarmingly, they could come into force within weeks. Some of the most pressing questions, those relating to corporate bond Peps, suggest that government departments are not on speaking terms. For example, on Thursday, the Treasury gave these new-style Peps the formal go-ahead. However, the Revenue has yet to clarify its complex stratagem to rescue them from the threat of double taxation which would reduce their returns, leaving them with little to attract investors.

Some fund managers have confidence in the taxman's ingenuity and are continuing with their launches. Others are less sanguine. The result may be that Kenneth Clarke's grand investment idea of the last Budget will have a less than auspicious start. For which he can blame the Inland Revenue.

Paying to care for the elderly

Liz Dolan reports on proposals for compulsory contributions to fund the needs of old people

A compulsory scheme to finance the long-term care of elderly people, funded by contributions from employers and members of the workforce, was proposed this week by Help the Aged.

The suggestion arises from the findings of a new report, *Coming Clean on Costs*, published by the charity on Wednesday. Martin Kohler, the report's author, suggests using as a model a scheme set up in Germany this year under which employees and employers pay an extra 1 per cent on eligible earnings, rising to a maximum monthly contribution equivalent to about £24.

The report bears out earlier findings that thousands of elderly people are already having to go without essential care in the UK because the NHS and local authorities have insufficient funds to meet their needs.

There are currently more than nine million over-65s in Britain. By 2021, this figure is expected to have risen to nearly 12 million, of which more than 5.5 million will be over 75. At the moment, an estimated one in eight over-75s require formal institutional care. Conservatives argue that

pensioners are getting wealthier and more can afford to pay their own way, the report says. But three out of every four pensioners still pay no income tax and health and care needs are greatest among people already suffering substantial hardship.

"The nation cannot afford to ignore this vital issue any longer," Mr Kohler says. "It has been side-stepped by all political parties, with none having clear goals on providing for old age. The consequences of continued inaction are unthinkable."

Help the Aged wants written responses to the report from interested individuals or groups by August 31. The results will then be discussed at a seminar in September.

Also this week Age Concern England released a survey showing that more than four in five local authorities rarely, or never, made use of existing powers to reduce financial hardship suffered by people whose partners move into residential or nursing homes.

The problem, normally arises when the husband moves into a home and has to contribute a large part of his occupational pension towards



Roughly one in eight over-75s currently requires formal institutional care

the fees. Local authorities have the option of boosting his personal allowance (normally £13.35 a week) so that he has more money left over to support his wife at home. But, according to the survey, nearly half of the councils who responded said they never in-

creased personal expenses allowances and nearly two in five said that they had done so on very few occasions.

Age Concern wants the Pensions Bill amended to allow the spouse at home the right to half of the partner's occupational pension.

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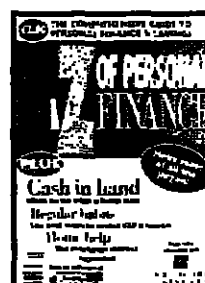
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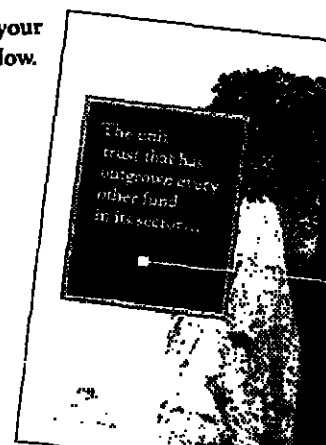
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The New M&G Handbook



About £20 billion is invested in Tessa, but will savers queue to keep money in them when Tessa II is launched?

To Tessa — a daughter

Investors of maturing accounts will be tempted with special offers to persuade them to reinvest, Christine Buckley says

If your tax exempt special savings account (Tessa) matures at the start of next year you can expect to be bombarded with offers of loyalty bonuses and higher interest rates from new on as banks and building societies begin the fight to keep existing customers and tempt new ones in. Rates could rise by up to 2 per cent, banks and societies predict.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, announced in his Budget last November that savers would be allowed to roll over the capital, but not the interest, from mature Tessa into new accounts.

Anyone who has saved the maximum each year for five years will have £9,000 of capital when their Tessa matures. It is difficult to calculate how much money will be unlocked in January, and in the months after that, but industry estimates put the amount of money in Tessa at about £20 billion.

Most of the take-up for the scheme occurred in the months immediately after its launch. The Halifax Building Society, which estimates that it has about 750,000 Tessa accounts, says that 500,000 were started in 1991.

Ian Lindsay, director of banking at Save & Prosper, whose new Tessa guarantees a fixed rate for the five-year term of the account, believes the competition in the run-up to the first maturities will be intense. "The competition to keep customers and attract new ones will be fierce and obviously rates are going to rise," he says.

You have six months from when your Tessa matures to reinvest the capital. It will be a buyer's market. Your bank or building society will be desperate to keep you from taking your money down the high

street, but after five years you will be able to compare its past performance with that of its rivals. Did your building society start off paying generous rates to attract customers then promptly drop them and keep them low when the money was safely invested? If so, what is to stop it doing the same again with Tessa II?

The Halifax says: "Customers will be able to judge on the track record of their Tessa, and consistency will be a very important consideration. Customers know what they want far more than they did the first time round."

The Halifax is not revealing

what it may offer customers but says that it will contact them in the late autumn.

Although rates will clearly be the key to maintaining Tessa customers and attracting new ones (far more so than other lures, such as the reduction of penalty clauses that, at present, can restrict Tessa transferee quite considerably), Tessa providers may well look at bolting on other benefits.

There are likely to be a number of loyalty programmes with higher rates offered to customers who maintain Tessa with one bank, building society or fi-

ancial services company. More fixed-rate Tessa will probably be on offer, guaranteeing a rate for the whole of the five-year term. But while such schemes may seem attractive now, they may not if interest rates rise after a general election, for example.

Chris Marley, senior marketing officer at Sun Banking Corporation, which offers a fixed-rate Tessa over five years at 8 per cent, albeit with the conditions of a high minimum investment and fairly punitive clauses for transference, says that his bank is starting to gear up for the Tessa fight.

Sun Banking, owned by Sun Life of Canada, will see investors' money released earlier than January for those who took out early Tessa as it offered feeder accounts that began before the launch of the scheme and fed money through to Tessa. Those feeder accounts will mature towards the end of the year. "It will be a very intense time as the maturities start occurring. There will be a lot of activity because such a lot of money will be there as an investment opportunity."

Most Tessa providers are looking at the period to stir up extra interest in the schemes for those not already holding one. In spite of the tax effectiveness of Tessa, it has been calculated that about only 17 per cent of taxpayers hold one.

David Graham, head of marketing at Scottish Widows, believes the culture of savings is changing and is increasingly favouring schemes such as Tessa.

"People are becoming totally risk-averse. Many of those who took out Peps and then took the hit from them don't want to repeat the experience. Tessa offers a short-term safe haven for investors," he says.

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	Deposit	Rate %
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Norfolk	£25,000	6.50
Woodville	£25,000	6.50
Albion & Leicester	£10,000	6.75
Leeds Permanent	£25,000	6.75
Co-op	£25,000	6.75
Bradford & Bingley	£25,000	6.75
Britannia	£25,000	7.10
MSP (fixed rate)	£25,000	7.50
Northern Rock	£1	6.50
BANKS		
Abbey National	£25,000	6.50
Barclays	£1,000	7.50
Co-operative	£100	6.75
Lloyds	£25,000	6.75
Midland	£100	6.25
Norwest	£1	6.75
TSB	£250	7.25
Other		
Barclays Bank	Deposit	Rate %
MSP (fixed rate)	£1,000	7.50
TSB	£25,000	7.50
Britannia BS	£25,000	7.10
Yorkshire BS	£25,000	7.10
Sun Banking Corp (fixed rate)	£25,000	8.00
Merchants Bank	£25,000	7.75
Horsley & Ruxley BS	£25,000	7.75
Dunfermline BS	£25,000	7.50
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THE TIMES WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Let pension plans provide solution to negative equity

From the Rev Roy C. Allison
Sir, It is interesting to note that the reported solutions offered by "experts" ("Tax breaks get negative reception", June 10) to ameliorate the negative equity problem have the effect of benefiting the profession proposing the suggestion, eg, the building societies and estate agents wanting increased tax relief for first-time buyers to kick-start the housing market.

Surely instead of focusing on the housing market generally, help should be directed at those in need.

Who are they? Not everyone with negative equity has an immediate problem. As with company shares, it is merely a "paper loss" until the investment (in this case a property) is sold.

Therefore those requiring help are:
□ those who need to sell and purchase another property, but find they cannot transfer negative equity
□ those who are threatened with repossession because of arrears.

What such households need is a lump sum (an average of £5000, according to *The Times*) to put them on an even keel. If this were to be found by the Government (by tax relief or some other means), it would be grossly

unfair on other taxpayers. There is another solution. Many people with mortgages also have a pension fund, either by way of personal pension or occupational pension. If a sum equivalent to the amount of negative equity could be borrowed (at no interest) from their own pension fund, this would:

□ enable them to sell and move;
□ reinvigorate the housing market
□ be at no cost to the Exchequer
□ be completely fair because it would be at the expense of the homeowner.

The homeowner could pay back the loan later: with interest if desired to restore the original pension. Or he/she could take a reduced pension. This facility would also enhance the advantages of having such a pension (to the benefit of pension providers), for there would be extra reason for having a pension.

Although this facility to borrow from one's pension fund would not help everyone with negative equity, I submit it would help the vast majority.

Yours sincerely,
ROY C. ALLISON,
Coombe Cross Bungalow,
Dittisham,
Dartmouth, Devon.

Paid-up policy is no surrender

From Mr S.P.L. Kennedy
Sir, Anne Ashworth overlooks a valuable option in place of surrendering an endowment policy. Provided premiums have been paid for a minimum period, usually two years, the policy may be "paid up". No further premiums will then be payable and the sum assured will be reduced, in most cases in the proportion of the premiums already paid to those payable over the whole term of the policy. Furthermore, it is common practice for existing bonuses to remain added to the policy and for the policy to continue to share in future bonuses (although a longer period in force may be required for this benefit).

An endowment policy is a means of repaying all or part of the mortgage and a "paid up" policy can, of course, be used as such.

Yours faithfully
S.P.L. KENNEDY
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Liz Dolan and Caroline Merrell report on an interrupted countdown

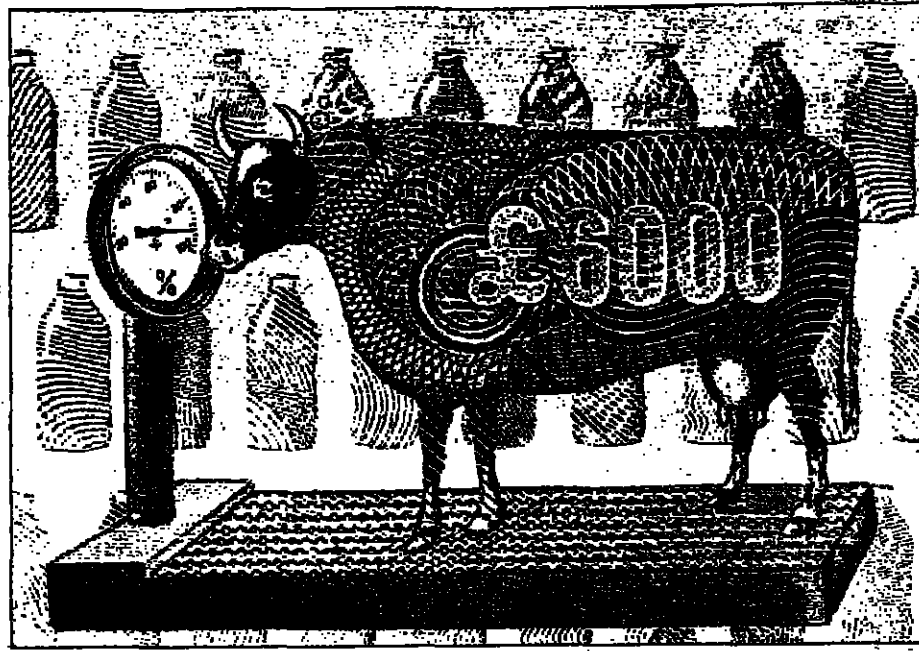
Tax changes cause delays for corporate bond Peps

Several fund managers are delaying the launch of corporate bond Peps until the Government finalises plans to change the taxation of gilts and bonds. Their decision comes in spite of a surprise announcement by the Government this week that regulations governing the new Peps would come into force on July 6, several weeks earlier than most observers expected.

The Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUIT) welcomed the Government's efforts to speed up the introduction of corporate bond Peps. It says it now expects the Inland Revenue to come to an early decision on how to circumvent any problems for Peps investors that have inadvertently arisen from proposed tax changes.

Commercial Union, Legal & General and Mercury are among those planning to delay the launch of their corporate bond Peps until the new bond taxation regime, which proposes to tax capital gains as income, is sorted out. However, M&G, the UK's biggest Peps manager, intends to press ahead.

The question mark over the



taxation of bonds is a further blow to the anticipated launch of these Peps. Two months ago, several Peps providers were talking of annual income payments of more than 9 per cent. But a rally in the gilt market means yields are now likely to be lower. Theodora

Zemek, head of M&G's fixed-interest desk, says: "The basic bottom line is now likely to be around 8.5 per cent. Minus fees, you'll get around 7.25 per cent, or 7.5 per cent, depending on the greed of the providers." Commercial Union - which this week became the latest

trusts and fixed-interest securities. "It's been a consistently high performer so, all things being equal, we expect to launch the Pepped version at that rate," a CU spokesman said.

Like Barclays and M&G, CU deducts charges from income, not capital. The company says: "We firmly believe that charges should be deducted from income, particularly on this type of product, where it is important to guard against erosion of capital."

The initial charge is 4 per cent, with a further 1.5 per cent deducted annually.

Barclays Unicorn's Income Manager Pep currently offers 8.5 per cent after charges. Anyone investing up to early August will be able to take advantage of the fund's next dividend distribution, due on August 16. Upfront charges are 3.25 per cent; annual charges are 0.75 per cent.

For a free copy of *The Layman's Guide to Corporate Bond Peps*, from the Peps specialists BEST Investment, send a first-class stamp to BEST Investment, 32 Duke Street, St James's, London SW1Y 6DF.



A case of giving till it hurts

From Mr T.P. Goodman
Sir, My wife and I hold a small variety of unit trust shares in trust for each of our four children.

They are all "accumulation" units whereby the dividend is reinvested in a small number of units each half year and new share certificates are issued for them on each occasion.

Our children are now of age, and we wrote to the unit trusts requesting that the shares be transferred into our children's own names.

A simple procedure one might think. One would be wrong.

Each small allotment of shares requires an individual stock transfer form to be filled in. A few dozen for each child - even for our most modest holdings.

Such is the complexity of the forms, particularly of the

small print on the back, that we have now had them returned three times.

And there is more: each form has to be stamped at a "Stamp Office" of the Inland Revenue, at a cost of 50p.

The Inland Revenue office locally knew nothing about stock transfer forms.

They referred us to the Customs and Excise Office. The Customs Officer was most interested in the stock transfer forms and anxious to help. He wanted to know if, "in the current sensitive climate," he could inspect the shipment "on the hoof".

We gave up, and sold all the units this morning.

Yours sincerely,
T.P. GOODMAN,
Logie House,
Pathfoot Drive,
Bridge of Allan,
Central Region,
Scotland, FK9 4SB.

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1994
Best Offshore Fund Management Group Over 3 Years The International/Offshore Financial Review
1st: Far East and Pacific including Japan Equity Sector Offshore Far Eastern Growth Fund Microcap
1993
Offshore Fund Management Group of the Year Rosebowl Award Investment International
Offshore Equity Fund Management Group of the Year Investment International
1st: Best Offshore Small Group Over 3 and 5 Years Microcap
1st: Best Offshore Equities Manager Overall Microcap
1st: Best Offshore Equities Manager Over 3 Years Microcap
Best Offshore Fund Management Group Over 3 Years The International/Offshore Financial Review
1992
Offshore Equity Fund Management Group of the Year Investment International
Best Offshore Investment Group Microcap
Best Offshore Small Group Microcap
Best Offshore Equities Manager Microcap
1st: Offshore Small Group Over 1, 3 and 5 Years Microcap
1st: Offshore Equities Over 1 and 5 Years Microcap
1991
1st: Offshore Small Group Over 1 Year Microcap
1st: Offshore Small Group Over 3 Years Microcap
1st: Offshore Small Group Over 5 Years Microcap
Best Offshore Equities Manager Microcap
1st: Offshore Equities Over 3 Years Microcap

This consistency has seen us collect thirty-five offshore investment awards in the last five years.

Our investment adviser has won no fewer than 40 major awards over the last three years alone, and has been named as The Sunday Times International Unit Trust Manager of the Year

Perpetual

Positions are to 1st June 1995 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of reinvested income, net of withholding taxes (source: Microcap). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up.

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For more information on our range of offshore funds, telephone Marion Buchanan on +44 (0) 1534 607660 or send her a fax on +44 (0) 1534 38918.

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Week ends on subdued note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	Company	Price	Change	Div	Yld	P/E
BANKS						
100	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
101	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
102	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
103	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
104	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
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BUILDING & CONSTRUCT						
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306	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
307	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
308	Alloy Int	47	+1	4	5.2	12
309	Alloy Int	47	+1			

دکتر محمد صالح

Impressive Norman storms into second-round lead at US Open

Montgomery endures anxious wait

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK

COLIN MONTGOMERIE had to spend an anxious few hours last night before he knew whether or not he had survived to the third and fourth rounds of the US Open at Shinnecock Hills.

Montgomery's record in this event is outstanding — third in 1992, second last year — but this year he has struggled. He added a 74 to his first-round 71 for a 36-hole total of 145 five over par, a score that was likely to be borderline.

Montgomery always calls a spade a spade and he was accurate and succinct as he contemplated his chances of beating the halfway cut for the fourth successive year in this competition. "I didn't drive very well, I didn't hit my irons very well, I didn't putt very well, and I didn't putt very well," he said, looking red-faced after four hours in the sunshine. "That's it."

Montgomery could make the cut either as one of the leading 60 players or by being within ten strokes of the leader. For him to survive by the second method, the leader has to be no better than five under par.

Nick Price was four under overnight and not due to tee off until two hours after Montgomery had finished. Greg Norman, after a first round containing 18 pars or better, had moved to five under par and into the outright lead by birdieing the final hole.

It was a sporting bet that, as the wind got up and the greens hardened under the benevolent influence of the sun, nobody would beat that score and this Montgomery, Europe's leading player last year, would survive.

Per-Ulrik Johansson was almost certain to miss the cut after 10 rounds of 74 and Severiano Ballesteros was likely to. He is 36-hole total of 147 — 74, then 73 — was due to a bad birdie.

"I'm going to get treatment for it," Ballesteros said. "If I beat that and I feel the same tomorrow as I do today, I'll play, but if it is any worse in the morning, then I won't. It is



Montgomery blasts out of a bunker at the 4th during his second round in the US Open yesterday. Photograph: Steve Munday/Allsport

making me quit on every shot."

Phil Mickelson's round of 70 for 135, two under par, made him the tournament leader until Norman finished. The tidy way the left-hander had played — 13 pars, two birdies and three bogeys — was in marked contrast to Montgomery, who had set out determined to eliminate the silly mistakes that had caused him to miss the cut in his first round. Perhaps it was the effort of trying not to do this that made him like a cat on hot

bricks at the start and contributed to his dropping shots at the 2nd and 4th holes.

Montgomery, Tom Lehman and Mickelson were warned for slow play on the 6th. Two pars helped Montgomery to calm down and, when told the group was back on schedule, on the 8th tee, Montgomery recovered his humour and joked: "Okay lads, we can slow down again now."

The heart of St Andrews is the loop from the 8th to the 11th holes inclusive and the

heart of Augusta is Amen Corner, the three holes starting at the 11th, 10th, 11th and 12th holes are at the core of the challenge presented by Shinnecock.

"These four holes are the key to this tournament," Johnny Miller said. "Do they have a name? No? Then what about the Fateful Four?"

Montgomery wobbled on Thursday as he played these holes, bogeying the 10th and 11th, but saving par on the 9th and hitting an eight iron to four feet on the downwind 12th

for his only birdie of the day. By now he was four over par, seven strokes worse than Mickelson, and he fell further behind when he three-putted the 18th.

Norman is looking very threatening, even after dropping a shot on the 8th, one of the shortest par fours on a course with monstrously long par fours. It was his first bogey of the tournament.

He dropped a second stroke on the 10th by driving left and then hitting his second over the raised green which

bounded down the grassy bank at the back. Norman recovered immediately and moved to four under par and into a tie for the lead with Price, who, at that moment, was practising his putting prior to beginning his second round.

Earlier in the week, Norman, 40, had said that he was as aggressive now as he had been in his twenties and thirties, but he had much more control. He looks as though he is going to be the man to beat.

Hall justifies position as favourite

BY MEL WEBB

A DISPLAY of utterly dominating golf by Julie Hall put her into the semi-finals of the Ladies' British Amateur Championship at Royal Portrush yesterday after she had taken all the way — and beyond — by a plucky opponent in the third round in the morning.

Hall moved into the last four with a performance of power and accuracy that left Lesley Nicholson puffing furiously in her slipstream. She was five under par for the 12 holes she played, admitted when pressed that it could have been seven, and won 7 and 6. "I played about as well as it's possible for me to play," Hall said. "I felt a bit sorry for Lesley — it's difficult to get into a match when your opponent is flying at the flag on every hole and then making the putts."

Yet things had been very different

before lunch as she was taken to the 20th by Mairina Alsaguren, of France. Alsaguren did not make a mistake until she missed a short putt on the 9th, but still

The decisive blow in Hall's recovery came at the 15th, where she failed to escape from a bunker at the first time of asking but then got up and down to halve the hole.

After halving the 18th and the first extra hole, Hall hit a big drive on the par-five 2nd and put her second shot on to the back of the green. Alsaguren, meanwhile, drove short, found a put bunker with a metal wood from the rough with her second shot and could not match Hall's two-putt birdie to win the match. It was a cruel end for the slim young Frenchwoman, who did brilliantly to withstand for so long the pressure of playing the championship favourite.

In her semi-final this morning Hall will play Janice Moodie, who won the point that ensured that Great Britain and Ireland retained the Curtis Cup last year. Moodie beat Cathy Schmitt, another member of a talented French contingent, by 3 and 2.

The pair came on to the 12th green all square, but then Moodie holed an 18-foot putt to go one up and won two of the next three holes to bring the match to an end on the 16th green.

Kristel Mourgue D'Algue, of France, who won the NCAA championship at Wilmington, North Carolina, two weeks ago, beat Eileen Rose Power at the 19th after a cut-and-thrust battle, and will play Hazel Kavanagh in the other semi-final. Kavanagh was taken to the 19th before she moved past the formidable Mhairi McKay, eventually sealing her win with a 15-foot putt for a birdie.

FOR THE RECORD	
ATHLETICS	MINOR COUNTRIES CHAMPIONSHIP: 100m: 11.10sec, 100m: 11.10sec, 200m: 23.10sec, 400m: 51.10sec, 800m: 1:50.10, 1600m: 4:00.10, 3200m: 8:00.10, 6400m: 16:00.10, 12800m: 32:00.10, 25600m: 64:00.10, 51200m: 128:00.10, 102400m: 256:00.10, 204800m: 512:00.10, 409600m: 1024:00.10, 819200m: 2048:00.10, 1638400m: 4096:00.10, 3276800m: 8192:00.10, 6553600m: 16384:00.10, 13107200m: 32768:00.10, 26214400m: 65536:00.10, 52428800m: 131072:00.10, 104857600m: 262144:00.10, 209715200m: 524288:00.10, 419430400m: 1048576:00.10, 838860800m: 2097152:00.10, 1677721600m: 4194304:00.10, 3355443200m: 8388608:00.10, 6710886400m: 16777216:00.10, 13421772800m: 33554432:00.10, 26843545600m: 67108864:00.10, 53687091200m: 134217728:00.10, 107374182400m: 268435456:00.10, 214748364800m: 536870912:00.10, 429496729600m: 1073741824:00.10, 858993459200m: 2147483648:00.10, 1717986918400m: 4294967296:00.10, 3435973836800m: 8589934592:00.10, 6871947673600m: 17179869184:00.10, 13743895347200m: 34359738368:00.10, 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Stewart must be given opening role

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE night porter at the riverside hotel in Worcester, that hosts the meeting, of the England selectors, must expect to be kept busy, for the one thing that can be said with certainty about the team for the Test match at Lord's next week is that it will be some time in the picking.

To lose the first Test match at Headingley was bad enough, given the psychological shift towards the West Indies that it produced, but to lose it by playing sloppily and with a miscoordinated team was culpable, particularly when England must now play catch-up cricket on the ground where they have been at their most vulnerable in recent years.

The importance of the game cannot be overstated. If England lose again, the series will be gone almost beyond recall and the captaincy of Michael Atherton, whose appointment covers

only half the summer, will be under renewed pressure. So Atherton must be given the correct team and that means the selectors starting their debate from a fresh standpoint.

Before Headingley, the perceived priority was to decide who should keep wicket. Once Alec Stewart had been installed, the rest of the team fell into place. Now, the priority must be to resolve the best opening partner for Atherton, and, if the errors of the first Test are properly acknowledged, Stewart will again be the first name on the selectors' notepad.

This will not be achieved without considerable grinding of teeth. Raymond Illingworth, the chairman of selectors, will be reluctant to abandon a policy after one game. He will be still more unwilling to admit to a mistake, but it must be done. Stewart is demonstrably a different player when going in first and England cannot afford to squander his ability through further compromise.

Reinstating Stewart at No 2 creates two subsidiary questions. Who will take his place in the middle-order and who will keep wicket? The first position is likely to come down to a choice between Robin Smith and John Crawley; the second to concern Steven Rhodes and Jack Russell. This pre-supposes that Illingworth can be persuaded that his desire for five specialist bowlers cannot be accommodated within the available resources.

Smith was transparently ill-equipped for the opening role identified for him, and he must now be assessed on a different basis. It may be thought fair to give him another game in his natural position, but I prefer the claims of Crawley, who has worked diligently at his technique and mobility since the winter tour. He has his best England days ahead of him, which cannot be predicted of Smith.

The alternative, a player such as Craig White or Jason Gallian, who can satisfy Illingworth's quest for a fifth bowler, ought not to be pursued. The progressive wicketkeeping choice would be Paul Nixon, who impressed with the A team in India. Pragmatists might prefer the notion of a batsman-with-gloves, such as Keith Brown. The selectors, however, are likely to discuss the merits of restoring Jack Russell and then return to Rhodes, a failure in Australia but the sort of pugnacious character with whom both captain and chairman feel comfortable.

England have a number of injury worries — Atherton's back problem among them — and the make-up of the bowling attack cannot be finalised until nearer the game. Peter Martin and Darren Gough are both sure to be named in a party that might stretch to 13, but will need to prove their recoveries from thigh and back injuries respectively.

Ironically, the one bowler sure of starting the match is Richard Illingworth, whose contentious inclusion at Headingley must now be registered as a shrewd piece of selection. He is bowling with more confidence and variation than at any stage of his career.

Angus Fraser, erroneously left out there, must play on his home pitch, where the slope and the slowness of the surface will surely rule out Devon Malcolm. Phil DeFreitas's position will also be under review after his uneven performance at Headingley. He will probably survive in the party, but there is now a compelling case for Dominic Cork, who is in fine form and equipped with a destructive outswinger, to be granted a belated Test debut.

A possible squad might therefore be: Atherton, Stewart, Hick, Thorpe, Crawley, Ramprakash, Rhodes, Cork, Fraser, Gough, Martin, Illingworth, DeFreitas.

Lamb's refusal to lie down earns leaders lion's share

By JACK BAILEY

LUTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire (20pts) beat Essex (4) by two wickets

KEEPING a cool head under pressure is a virtue that Northamptonshire have had to summon to their assistance a great deal recently. Yesterday, in a match which could have gone either way until the very end, they again relied upon all the *sang froid* at their disposal, coming home by two wickets with the highest innings of the match.

They thus maintained their sizeable lead at the head of the Britannic Assurance County Championship while passing a vote of thanks to Allan Lamb, their captain, whose undefeated half century was at the heart of their effort.

There is no better man in a

same time score 17 precious runs off various parts of the bat.

But it was, of course, really Lamb and fluent contributions from Warren, Curran and Snape that followed a dogged, determined innings by Mongomerie, which won the day. It is also true to say that the conditions, though still difficult, had eased, while the Essex bowling lacked the fine edge that had cut through Northamptonshire for 46 on Thursday.

Not many, but too many, balls were sufficiently wide and under-pitched to give Lamb and others room to manoeuvre through the off-side. Give Lamb a little room and he will make you pay, and yesterday he did so to the tune of six fours — a scarce commodity in this match — scored while he faced 71 balls. The admirable Curran also raised eyebrows with a short-arm jab off Iran that cleared the mid-wicket boundary.

As Northamptonshire neglected few scoring chances in this all-or-nothing situation, Lott continued in his role as their chief adversary. The story of the day's play may be gleaned from his five for 86 from 22 overs. On Thursday, he had taken nine wickets and bowled at fewer than two runs an over.

Which is not to say other than that he bowled extremely well yesterday; and 14 wickets in any match, let alone against the championship leaders, should serve to give the selectors more than a gentle nudge in spite of Raymond Illingworth's reportedly dismissive reaction to Thursday's effort. Lamb was clearly of the opinion that fortune had been with his team during the recent series of tight finishes from which they have emerged victorious. Their last four matches have brought a win over Surrey by nine runs after being bowled out for 59 in their second innings; victory off the last ball of the match at Sheffield; a four-day two-runnings battle on a bowler's pitch for a two-day win against Derbyshire; and now this result.

Given a few days of sunshine, instead of a week of cloud cover after heavy rain, this pitch would have been a batsman's heaven. That conditions turned out as they did was nobody's fault but the weather's.

SCOREBOARD

ESSEX: First Innings 127 (R J Pollard 62 not out; D J Cappel 5 for 22)

Second Innings 107 (P Taylor 7 for 50)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings 46 (M C Lott 9 for 10)

Second Innings 8

N A Mallerder bowled by Lott 8

R R Mongomerie c Hussain b Lott 18

M B Lowe bowled by Lott 18

R Bailey bowled by Lott 1

A J Lamb not out 50

R J Warren c Hussain b Lott 50

K M Curran c Richardson b Lott 24

D J Cappel c Richardson b Lott 6

J N Simpson bowled by Lott 17

A Kumble not out 17

Extras (4, 12, 1, 1, 1) 18

Total (8 wickets) 102

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-48, 3-53, 4-56, 5-64, 6-151, 7-142, 8-161

BOWLING: Lott 22-0-85, Iran 17-7-53, 1; Waugh 17-4-47, 2

Umpires: D J Constant and R A White

crisis than Lamb, and Northamptonshire's second innings had its critical times. The Essex three-man attack of Mark Ilett, Ronnie Irani and Steve Waugh worked their way through the batting order until eight wickets had fallen for 161. Northamptonshire were still 28 runs adrift and, when Anil Kumble came in, the chances of Lamb running out of partners were very real.

Kumble proved himself a man of steel, however. Lamb said afterwards that the Indian Test bowler was full of confidence. "He said, 'leave it to me, captain', so I did," Lamb added. "After that I never doubted we would win."

It was extraordinary how Kumble, who met each ball, whatever its nature, with a flowing off drive which sometimes connected, contrived to keep the bowling and at the



Lott, the Essex seamer, appeals successfully after trapping Mallerder leg-before

Moody exacts heavy toll

By ALAN LEE

WORCESTER (second day of four): Lancashire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 249 runs behind Worcestershire

LANCASHIRE have not quite convinced themselves they have the resources to win the championship, and days like this will do nothing for their self-belief. Fielding a man short, their weakened and wayward attack sustained such severe damage that the last remaining unbeaten record in the competition may well be short-lived.

On a pitch that had offered batsmen no security on the first day, Graeme Hick and Tom Moody mocked all cautious calculations with a dominating stand of 250 in 53 overs. Of all the batting combinations in county cricket, perhaps only this pair would have been capable of such mayhem and Moody's dismissal in the session's penultimate over deprived us, by six

runs, of the rare sight of two batsmen scoring 100 before lunch.

Lancashire rallied to take four wickets for 35 but the next three wickets each added more than 50 before Stuart Lampitt was caught on the long-leg boundary, inches short of the six that would have completed his second century. The catcher, Nick Speak, was bowled, playing no stroke to Newport, to end Lancashire's woe-begone day.

This has been a careless performance by Lancashire, mentally hung over after the high adrenalin of Tuesday's Benson and Hedges Cup win, things going wrong from the moment it was decided to include an injured Michael Atherton.

Thus far, Atherton's part in the game has been brief and painful. His back spasm, which habitually stretches down his left leg, deteriorated overnight and he visited a doctor before play. Plainly

unfit to field, he spent his day on the balcony with a variety of England officials, including the chairman, and continued to express confidence about recovering for the Lord's Test.

But the fact that he came into the match with an injury meant that Moody, appointed yesterday as Worcestershire's captain for the rest of the season, felt entitled to refuse the use of a substitute.

Moody's innings, his third consecutive championship century, suffered only by comparison with Hick, who launched the day with such startling belligerence that eight of his first ten scoring shots were fours. The 82nd century of his career was completed with a typically savage square-cut against Gallian.

Lampitt, an underrated cricketer still improving at 28, ensured in his unassuming way that Lancashire would pay full penance for their errors of the opening day.

Apprentice crashes through opening barrier

By PAT GIBSON

COLWYN BAY (second day of four): Middlesex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 183 runs ahead of Glamorgan

NEITHER Desmond Haynes nor Michael Roseberry could have made a better job of putting Middlesex in command of this match than Jason Pooley, their long-time apprentice, did with the highest score of his career.

It was an indication of the progress the left-handed Pooley has made since he was asked to solve the crisis caused by the departure of the two experienced opening batsmen in his first full season.

Pooley, who will be 26 in August, has had to wait a long time for his chance. He made his first class debut as long ago as 1989 but although he always seemed to be a cut above his contemporaries in the second XI the presence of Haynes and Roseberry limited his opportunities.

He did not find it easy at first, which was hardly surprising without a senior partner to show him the way but he made his first century against Worcestershire, carried his bat for 85 against Derbyshire and yesterday produced his best innings.

Pooley is a stroke player who is learning to curb his impetuosity and he made few mistakes on his way to 125 off 176 balls on a slow pitch which suited his forcing style. He was particularly severe on the toiling Glamorgan spinners as he struck 14 fours and five sixes, one of which cleared the pavilion and smashed the windscreen of a car belonging to Middlesex's 12th man, Farbrace. It could have been worse. Farbrace's car was parked between those of his captain, Gattling, and his vice-captain Carr.

Ramprakash had joined Pooley in a second wicket partnership of 193 in 51 overs and Glamorgan could hardly believe their luck when Ramprakash pulled the first ball after lunch straight to square leg. Pooley sliced Barwick to cover point soon afterwards and Gattling was run out when Watkin deflected a fierce drive from Carr into the stumps at the bowler's end. After that, however, Carr and Brown took complete control.

Carr, battered beautifully to make 129 and Brown showed why he is mentioned as a possible England wicketkeeper-batsman by scoring a century of his own.

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Somerset

DERBY (second day of four): Somerset, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, need 64 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Derbyshire

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 378 (D J Quinn 181, A S Rollins 86; Mather Afford 5 for 107)

SOMERSET: First Innings

M N Leonard bowled by DeFreitas 1

M P Treaclock bowled by DeFreitas 22

P D Bowler bowled by DeFreitas 2

R J Hardin bowled by DeFreitas 2

A N Hayman bowled by DeFreitas 18

K A Parsons bowled by DeFreitas 28

R J Turner bowled by DeFreitas 10

Nightingale bowled by DeFreitas 10

J D Kell bowled by DeFreitas 2

Extras (1, 12, 1, 1, 1) 15

Total (8 wickets) 189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-28, 3-34, 4-41, 5-108, 6-157, 7-167, 8-174

BOWLING: DeFreitas 19-3-73, DeFreitas 12-5-16-2, Warner 12-3-44, Cork 15-0-40-4

Umpires: N T Pines and P B Wright

Glamorgan v Middlesex

COLWYN BAY (second day of four): Middlesex, with four first-innings wickets in hand, are 183 runs ahead of Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings 278 (H A G Anthony 88, H Morris 53)

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

P C Wickett bowled by Anthony 1

R J Hardin bowled by Anthony 125

M R Ramprakash bowled by Anthony 129

J D Kell bowled by Anthony 104

M W Gattling bowled by Anthony 7

R J Hardin bowled by Anthony 104

J E Embury bowled by Anthony 0

Extras (5, 5, 15, 1, 1) 36

Total (8 wickets) 459

Score at 120 overs: 450-6

R L Johnson, A R C Fraser and P C R Tuffell not out

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-106, 3-206, 4-217, 5-238, 6-258

BOWLING: Wickett 27-11-80-1, Anthony 13-2-51-1, Cork 33-6-120-2, Kendrick 15-1-42-0, Barwick 25-5-81-1, Hays 7-0-28-0, Copley 3-0-15-0

Bonus points: Glamorgan 4 Middlesex 8

Umpires: G I Burgess and K J Lyons

Gloucestershire v Hampshire

BRISTOL (second day of four): Gloucestershire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 75 runs behind Hampshire

GLoucestershire: First Innings

V P Tenny bowled by Smith 12

R M Morris bowled by Smith 0

J P Stephenson bowled by Smith 0

R A Smith bowled by Smith 138

M C J Nicholls bowled by Smith 0

G W White bowled by Smith 0

K D James bowled by Smith 53

J A Ayres bowled by Smith 0

S D Lloyd bowled by Smith 32

H H Streak bowled by Smith 8

A Connor bowled by Smith 0

Extras (4, 4, 3, 1, 1, 1) 15

Total (11 wickets) 114

Score at 120 overs: 450-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-4, 2-12, 3-16, 4-22, 5-109, 6-202, 7-243, 8-255, 9-303

BOWLING: Smith 27-6-74-4, Boden 22-0-26-0, Smith 15-4-50-1, Aleyne 17-4-41-0, Pike 25-3-24-0

Bonus points: Gloucestershire 6 Hampshire 8

Umpires: J G Balderson and P Wiley

Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 17 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

D L Maddy bowled by Pisk 1

G E Edges bowled by Pisk 15

W J Crouse bowled by Pisk 1

J P Watkinson bowled by Pisk 127

G Smith bowled by Pisk 1

T P Nelson bowled by Pisk 1

J P Parsons bowled by Pisk 107

G P Parsons bowled by Pisk 1

D J Maddy bowled by Pisk 20

A D Maddy bowled by Pisk 1

A R K Pearson bowled by Pisk 8

Extras (5, 5, 5, 1, 1, 1) 18

Total (11 wickets) 351

Score at 120 overs: 378-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-32, 3-42, 4-80, 5-173, 6-231, 7-255, 8-351, 9-383

BOWLING: Pisk 27-6-81-4, Maddy 23-6-28-0, Edges 25-6-53-0, Chapman 14-5-20-0, Hickson 3-0-12-0

Bonus points: Leicestershire 6 Nottinghamshire 8

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A A Jones

Sussex v Surrey

HORSHAM (second day of four): Surrey, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 277 runs ahead of Sussex

SURREY: First Innings 157 (E S H Gidde 4 for 54, J Lewry 4 for 77)

Sussex: First Innings

J D Padellaro bowled by Lewry 8

A J Stewart bowled by Lewry 130

M A Butcher bowled by Lewry 110

G P Thorpe bowled by Lewry 110

A D Brown bowled by Lewry 42

Extras (1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1) 6

Total (8 wickets) 342

Score at 120 overs: 378-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-2, 3-3, 4-4, 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 8-8

BOWLING: Lewry 17-4-41-0, Smith 15-4-50-1, Pike 25-3-24-0

Bonus points: Leicestershire 6 Nottinghamshire 8

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A A Jones

Yorkshire v Kent

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Kent, with all second-innings wickets in hand, need 216 runs to avoid an innings defeat against Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

M D Mason bowled by Smith 203

M R Vaughan bowled by Smith 71

D Bate bowled by Smith 29

M B Green bowled by Smith 29

C Bailey bowled by Smith 17

R J Bailey bowled by Smith 12

A P Green bowled by Smith 0

D Gough bowled by Smith 0

D Gough bowled by Smith 0

Extras (5, 5, 15, 1, 1, 1) 36

Total (7 wickets) 105

Score at 120 overs: 378-6

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-3, 3-3, 4-4, 5-5, 6-6, 7-7, 8-8

BOWLING: Smith 27-6-81-4, Maddy 23-6-28-0, Edges 25-6-53-0, Chapman 14-5-20-0, Hickson 3-0-12-0

Bonus points: Leicestershire 6 Nottinghamshire 8

Umpires: M J Kitchen and A A Jones

Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire, with one first-innings wicket in hand, are 17 runs ahead of Nottinghamshire

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

D L Maddy bowled by Pisk 1

Forget fires reminder of his class on grass

By STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

GUY FORGET might have been tapping out indiscreet messages in morse code yesterday. As he battered the walls around the front lawn of Queen's Club, he forcefully reminded Wimbledon's seeding committee that he deserves consideration when the discussions are held on Monday.

France's most prominent player, Forget is presently ranked No 28 in the world, but his position is bound to improve after reaching the semi-final of the Stella Artois tournament. Even if he bows out to his doubles partner, Boris Becker, this afternoon, he could rise into the top 20.

Such a status would not merit a place among the 16 seeds in any grand slam championship other than Wimbledon, where a player's past performances on grass, as well as present form, are taken into account. At the most timely stage, Forget's case is gathering momentum.

A quarter-finalist in each of his past three appearances at

Or, in his case, the match. Forget twice read Ivanisevic's mind and, with a couple of searing forehands, took the tie-break 7-3 and a place in the last four, 6-3, 7-6. He proclaimed that his greatest asset had been his patience.

"All the top guys keep their heads together," as he put it. Ivanisevic, resembling a rumbling volcano whenever he is on court, seldom does and, until he learns to suppress his fiery emotions, he is unlikely to collect a grand slam title.

He exploded midway through the second set. The object of his derision was the umpire, who was accused of "having a good time in the sun". An ensuing oath earned him a warning for an audible obscenity. Ivanisevic promptly responded with two typically belligerent aces.

Later he struck six in a row, including his fiftieth of the week, and he finished with 17 in all. But Forget, who replied with ten of his own, maintained the greater concentration, kept his volleys lower over the net and, ultimately, won the guessing game.

Becker, the second seed and three times the former champion, will be a formidable opponent. He dismissed Jason Stoltenberg in a mere 55 minutes, yielding only four games after starting by dropping his serve. Like Forget, he has not yet conceded a set.

Nor has Pete Sampras. The top seed was competing in the 500th match of his career and it was one of his least taxing. Sandon Stolle, the son of Fred, came through the qualifying competition and he stands 300 places lower than his illustrious opponent.

The gap in class was plain and Stolle contributed to his inevitable downfall by twice committing double faults when facing break points. Sampras won 6-2, 6-3 and will now meet the unseeded Marc Gollner in the other semi-final.

Venus Williams has been named in the US Federation Cup squad for the world group semi-finals against France in Wilmington, North Carolina next month. Williams, who is 15 today, is the fourteenth player named in a pool from which Billie Jean King, the captain, will choose a four-player team for the match on July 22-23.

Results ——— 37

Wimbledon, Forget has so far this week beaten Todd Martin, the fifth seed and defending champion, and Goran Ivanisevic, the No 3 seed. Both of his victories were recorded convincingly in straight sets.

Forget recalls that the one year in which he was seeded at Wimbledon, he was also ranked outside the top 16. "I think I'm among the top 16 on grass right now," he claimed, with justification rather than arrogance, yesterday. "If I'm not seeded, it will be too bad for the guys who play me."

The Frenchman feels so at home on the slick lawns that he even expressed the wish that he had been born in England. Nevertheless, he revealed that he had to rely on guesswork to undo Ivanisevic's fearsome serve, which appeared at times to be irresistible.

"You have to pick a direction and just hope that it is the right one," Forget said afterwards. "You can spend two games without even touching the ball. The key is not to get upset. You may not be able to return for half an hour, then you get the breaks in the tie-break and win the set."



Sampras on his way to a victory over Stolle in the 500th match of his career, at Queen's Club yesterday

Familiarity which breeds success

By ALIX RAMSAY

THERE was an understandable sense of déjà vu as Zina Garrison-Jackson made her way into the semi-finals of the DFS Classic at Edgbaston yesterday. After 12 years on the tennis circuit and eight appearances in Birmingham, the former Wimbledon finalist feels at home at the Priory Club.

For the past two years, she has played Lori McNeil in the final, and they are on course to meet again tomorrow. Even her opponents in the early rounds this year — Laura Golarsa and Caroline Vis —

were the same as in 1994 and were dispatched with the same efficiency. Yesterday, she eased past Christina Singer 6-2, 6-3 and proved that, while the body may be ageing, the mind is as sharp as ever.

However, all good things must come to an end and, at the age of 31, Garrison-Jackson, of the United States, is thinking of winding down. She has pencilled a handful of singles tournaments into her diary for next year, but is gradually coming to the conclusion that doubles will feature more in her schedule.

"I have no major injuries, just a lot of nagging prob-

lems," she said. "When you've been playing as long as I have, your motivation tends to go up and down; but, this year, I'm really enjoying my tennis." The older she gets, the more she can relax, but when it comes to the crunch matches, the will to win is not quite what it was and a few three-setters have escaped her in recent months.

She gets just as big a thrill from playing at Wimbledon as on her first appearance. "I'm like a kid with a candy jar," she said. "I just eat up the excitement."

Today, to reach the final, she must get past Els Callens,

of Belgium, who beat Kristine Radford 6-2, 6-4 for her ninth successive victory on grass. In the other semi-final, McNeil will play Elena Reinach, of South Africa, who dropped the second set in her win over Nicole Arendt. McNeil beat Laurence Courtois 6-0, 6-3.

Whatever happens today, Garrison-Jackson is guaranteed a warm welcome whenever she is in Birmingham. Two years ago, she was made a member of the Priory Club and officials have already made tentative inquiries about whether she would be prepared to turn out for them in league matches.

Salt Lake wins at fifth attempt

SALT Lake City will stage the Winter Olympic Games in 2002, after three decades of campaigning to be a host city. Members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), meeting in Budapest, voted yesterday for the American city ahead of Oestersund, in Sweden, Quebec City, in Canada and Sion, in Switzerland. Salt Lake City received 54 of the 89 votes cast.

Salt Lake City was bidding for the fifth time for the right to host the Olympics. Having been edged out by Nagano in their bid for the 1998 Games, they began the day as overwhelming favourites. The IOC's own evaluation commission had come out enthusiastically in favour of Salt Lake City, which, unlike its rivals, has already built almost all of the venues needed for the Games. It will be the fourth time that the United States has staged the Winter Olympics, and the first time since Lake Placid hosted the Games in 1980.

Porsche favoured

MOTOR SPORT: The return of Ferrari to the Le Mans 24-hour race today will add a touch of nostalgia to the world's most famous endurance event, but Porsche remain strong favourites to win the event. Porsche, who have won 13 times, have not entered an official car, but two private teams will compete with Porsche engines — Courage, from France, and Kremer, from Germany. Courage, based in Le Mans, feature Mario Andretti, of the United States, Bob Wollek and Henri Pescarolo, both from France, at the wheel, while Hans Stuck, of Germany, and Thierry Boutsen, of Belgium, drive for Kremer.

France rise to a draw

RUGBY LEAGUE: France achieved their best result against New Zealand in 48 years when they drew 16-16 in the second international, at Palmerston North, yesterday. Frederic Banquet, the Featherstone Rovers wing, scored a try and two goals. Marcel Chantreau, the French referee, also awarded a penalty try against the home side. New Zealand, who had struggled to a 22-6 victory in the first international, were often outplayed, an ominous sign before their three-match series with Australia. Wales meet the United States in Philadelphia tonight, after winning 66-10 last Saturday.

Haining on the move

ROWING: Jürgen Gröbler, the Great Britain coach, has switched the boat positions of Peter Haining, the world singles champion, and Carl Smith, a previous world gold medal-winner in rowing and sculling, in his new lightweight line-up that will compete in Paris this weekend. Haining stroked the new British doubles scull, without conspicuous success, at earlier international regattas; Smith now takes on that task. A similar switch was made by Gröbler with Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in 1992, and they have not lost since.

Russian opposition

SWIMMING: The third and final leg of the Mare Nostrum tour in Monte Carlo this weekend will serve as an important test of form for some of Great Britain's best medal prospects for the European championships in Vienna in August. Mark Foster, the world short-course champion at 50 metres freestyle, faces Aleksandr Popov, of Russia, and Martin Harris and Adam Ruckwood, the Commonwealth backstroke champions at 100 and 200 metres, will take on Vladimir Selkov, the world champion, also of Russia.

Germany dominant

HOCKEY: Germany reinforced their position among the favourites to win the women's European Nations Cup by beating Ireland 4-0 in Amstelveen, Holland, yesterday. Ireland forced three penalty corners at the start of the match and paid heavily for their failure to convert any of them as the Olympic runners-up broke away to win comfortably. Natascha Keller, Vanessa van Kooperen and Franziska Hentschel, the Germany captain, with goals from two penalty corners, completed the scoring.

Les Lions beaten by superior teamwork

THE qualifying round of the Royal Windsor Cup continued at Smith's Lawn yesterday with Sheikh Alhamrani's Palmira gaining a 10-6 win over Les Lions, who are put together by Max Gottschalk, to retain their unbeaten record in this polo tournament (John Watson writes).

Les Lions seemed over-reliant on Ernesto Trotz, their terribandicap Argentine No 3, whose colleagues were all too rarely in the right place to receive his passes. As a result, he attempted to do too much himself.

By contrast, Palmira, arguably the most impressive quarter in the Royal Windsor Cup, are well synchronised, pivoting on Howard Hipwood, the All-England captain, and with a pair of fine forwards in Roddy Wood and Alex Brodie. Palmira were appreciably better mounted,

too, for a tussle often interrupted by the umpires.

Trotz and Hipwood converted three penalty goals each and, because of Trotz's astonishing energy and facility for being wherever the action was, Les Lions were only 4-3 down at half-time.

Palmira proved their superiority well in the fourth chukka when they moved 8-3 ahead, one of the most spectacular goals coming from Sheikh Alhamrani, who galloped almost the length of the field on his Argentine bay mare, Francesca, to find the flags.

In the last chukka, Tarquin Southwell backed up Trotz to better effect, which led to a narrowing of the final margin.

PALMIRA: 1, A Brodie (2); 2, R Wood (4), S, H Hipwood (8); back, Sheikh Alhamrani (10).
LES LIONS: 1, J Gottschalk (1); 2, T Southwell (3); 3, E Trotz (10); back, M Gottschalk (2).

McGregor chases peace of mind

Andrew Longmore meets an unheralded Briton seeking to climb cycling's Everest

On a weekend of rugby fever, minor, sniffling acts of heroism will largely pass unnoticed; but, if Yvonne McGregor, Bradford born and Bradford bred, can pump aching muscles for long enough to break the world one-hour record at the National Cycling Centre in Manchester today, she will deserve as much credit as the pampered warriors of world rugby. She will not get any reward, except perhaps a few quid from a helmet manufacturer, nor does she expect any. The challenge of cycling's Everest is personal, a matter of wanting to do it rather than having to.

"I'm not looking to put my name up in lights," she said. "This is the hardest thing I've ever tried in my life, but when I get the best I possibly can out of myself, it brings me peace of mind. Besides, I'm into pain at the moment. You've got to be in this sport."

Pain? Peace of mind? Enduring one to reach the other. The language of true sport, spoken by a flock of a lass who has such a contagious, face-creasing smile you are bound to smile with her, even at words like "pain". With the hour record, there are no consolation prizes, no silver or bronze medals, just plain pass or fail. One metre beyond the record of the 47.112 kilometres set by the French woman, Kathy Marsal, in Bordeaux in April is success; one metre behind, after nearly 200 laps at 29.2 mph, is failure.

Nothing in the facts of McGregor's sporting life suggests that the record is within her grasp. She did not turn to cycling until four years ago, at 30, after a lifetime of amateur running which included

eightth place in the world fell running championships. Triathlon was the stepping-stone to cycling where she now holds every national time-trial title from 3,000 metres to 100 miles. She has never ridden the hour, not even in practice, and the track is not the quickest.

But, if you discount incidental adventures like circumnavigating the highest salt-water lake in the world in a canoe, McGregor's most eye-catching feat, the one which convinces you even more than her self-effacing manner, of her genius for surprise, came at the Commonwealth Games in Canada last year.

McGregor did not want to compete in the 25km points race on the understandable grounds she had never ridden

in a bunch race before and was still a novice on the track. But the England coach insisted, so she rode, learning the ropes for the first half of the race — "no brakes and no gears" — and winning gold in the second. "I saw a gap on the inside, put me head down and went," she recalled.

Chris Boardman used the hour record, which he broke in Bordeaux on the day the Tour de France came to town, to advertise his services to a professional team. In the absence of any commercial sponsor, Boardman's company, Beyond Level 4, is underwriting the cost of McGregor's challenge.

For the past ten weeks, McGregor has been living on scraps, having given up her job as a youth worker, and training four times a week. "I know I will have to dig deeper than I ever have before, but I know I've got the form. It all boils down to confidence."

Obree prepares for Isle of Man test

GRAEME OBREE, the world 4,000 metres record-holder, yesterday put the finishing touches to the new bike that he has built and will ride tomorrow in the opening event of Isle of Man week, the biggest annual cycling festival in the British Isles (Peter Bryan writes).



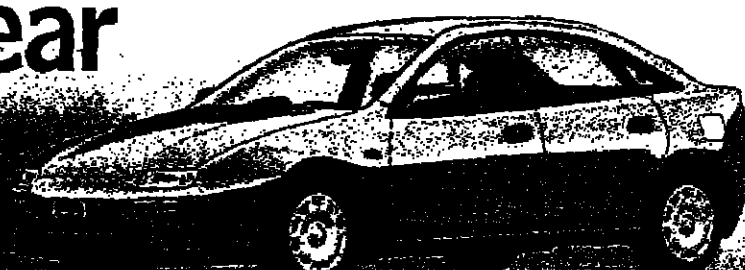
Obree: winner in 1992

Obree is seeded No 1 in an entry of 135 for the 37½-mile time-trial, over one lap of the TT circuit, that includes the 1,400ft climb of Snafell followed by a 50mph descent to the finish.

Obree won the event in 1992 and faces Matthew Postle, of Wales, the winner last year, together with a strong challenge. He also plans to compete in the 113½-mile Manx International road race on Friday, over three laps of the TT course, which incorporates the British professional championship. The British Universities road-race title, over 50 miles, will be fought for on Monday.

Yvonne McGregor, the winner this week of the women's national 25-mile title, tonight attempts to break the world one-hour record of 47.112 kilometres, that is held by Catherine Marsal, of France.

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مكتبة النور

Veteran owner-breeder switches stables to give sprinter big chance Superpride can seize opportunity

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

SHEIKH MOHAMMED, Crown Prince of Dubai and the world's largest owner-breeder, has shown the advantages this season of personally directing where many of his horses will be trained and run as he garners the Turf's top prizes. At York this afternoon, Muriel Ward, from Beck-withshaw, near Harrogate, aims to take a leaf out of his book.

Mrs Ward, who keeps two broodmares at Norton Grove Stud, bred the speedy Superpride and has had the £50,000-added William Hill Trophy in mind for some time after the success of her gelding at Ayr last year.

Unfortunately, as often happens in racing, a difference of opinion developed between the owner-breeder and the trainer, David Barron, after the three-year-old's latest run at Thirsk 12 days ago.

"I insisted my horse went to York but he flatly refused to take him," she said yesterday, pointing out that Barron wanted to race another of his horses, Coastal Bluff. As a result, Mrs Ward moved her horse to Mary Reveley's Saluburn yard a week ago and after settling in well, he lines up for today's feature race.

In the adjacent starting stall is Coastal Bluff, 5-1 favourite with the sponsors.

Although Superpride is generally available at 16-1 with the big bookmakers, the decision of Mrs Ward, 74, to stick to her guns can be rewarded with a notable victory. Confined to racing over five furlongs, he

has shown up well in his last two races but looks sure to appreciate today's extra furlong, the trip which saw him win last year.

In addition, much more use is likely to be made of Superpride's abundance of speed and his jockey, Dale Gibson, is expected to have him near the head of affairs from stall one, drawn next to the far rail. If the forecast rain arrives, it will enhance his prospects as the ground was on the soft side when he won at Ayr last year.

Perryston View, who is seeking to complete a five-timer for the Ripon trainer Peter Calver,

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: **SUPERPRIDE** (3.45 York)
NB: **Courageous Dancer** (8.00 Lingfield Park)

is a big danger along with Stylish Ways, who lived up to his name when winning at Leicester 18 days ago, and Coastal Bluff. However, at his attractive price, Superpride is a sporting nap.

A number of horses the British Horseracing Board handicappers have to assess every week, it is surprising how few errors are made.

However, there is good reason to believe they have been generous to **Courageous Dancer** who makes her handi-cap debut at Lingfield (8.00) this evening after an improved

performance when beating Allyana at Pontefract over six furlongs recently.

Ben Hanbury's lightly-raced filly should appreciate the extra furlong here and has a favourable high draw. Muchtarak ran an eye-catching race behind Shahid here last month, but then disappointed at Newmarket two weeks ago. However, he still looks the main threat.

James Fanshawe's horses are running consistently well, notably his three-year-old filly, and his **Ellie Ardensley** impressed when winning a Ripon maiden in taking style four weeks ago.

The well-bred daughter of Slip Anchor quickened more than a furlong out to dispose of the opposition and as she did not look fully wound up that day, further improvement is on the cards. Her trainer has elected to go for the Warwick Oaks (8.20) and **Ellie Ardensley** is up to the task.

At Bath, John Akehurst is wasting no time in bringing out **Hi Aud** after her mid-week success at Kempton and with Richard Quinn booked to ride, she can complete a quick treble in the Bedminster Stakes (4.40).

Sandown's mediocre card does not look punter friendly, but if the rain stays away the fast ground-loving **Ela Man Howa**, from Reg Akehurst's yard, will appreciate the step up in distance offered by the Trafalgar Square Handicap (4.35). He could prove eye-value against Embracing, the likely warm favourite.



The progressive Perryston View, seen winning at Newmarket recently, attempts to gain his fifth consecutive success in the William Hill Trophy at York today

Ela-Aristokrati can follow up

YORK CHANNEL 4

3.15: Amancio appears to have benefited from being gelded and Guy Harwood's formerly excitable sort turned in an improved performance when winning a ladies' event at Epsom on Sunday. Provided this race does not come too soon, he must have a good chance of following up. However, preference is for the ultra consistent **Slasher Jack**, a course and distance winner, who is partnered by Lydia Pearce. Although not disgraced behind **Purple Splash** at Haydock last time, he is better over today's shorter trip.

3.45: See above.

4.15: **Ela-Aristokrati** faces a tougher task compared to the conditions race at Epsom on Sunday where Michael Stoute's progressive sort bolted up. However, the Danehill colt is very much on



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

the upgrade and top weight may not be enough to stop him following up.

Quango is a big danger, especially as Jimmy Fitzgerald's gelding is stepping up in trip. He kept on well behind the highly regarded Verzen over an inadequate seven furlongs at Redcar 18 days ago, having previously run particularly well over a mile behind **Ilthram**. Today's extra trip and galloping track will suit. Sayeh ran too freely for his own good when last of five behind Derby runner-up

Tamure over course and distance last month and would have claims if learning to settle.

4.45: **Sycamore Lodge** is very well treated, judging on his second at Doncaster three weeks ago, but due to **Ex-Derby** Wood-ridden horse is still a maiden. **Dancing Heights** turned in a career best performance on her seasonal reappearance over a mile at Haydock and, as she won over a further quarter of a mile last year, should go well.

However, in a tricky race, **Maurang** looks an interesting proposition at the foot of the handicap. He runs off a handicap mark 1lb lower than when achieving his third success last year and has been gradually running into form. **Forever Diamonds** is unbeaten in three starts at York, but the burden of top weight may see him relinquish that record.

RICHARD EVANS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

York

Going: good to firm (good in places)

2.10 (1m 2f 5yds) 1. **CORRADO** (W Ryan 9-1), 2. **Crysalis** (Dale 5-1), 3. **Horst** (R. 18-1), 4. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 5. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 6. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 7. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 8. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 9. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 10. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 11. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 12. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 13. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 14. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 15. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 16. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 17. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 18. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 19. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 20. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 21. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 22. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 23. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 24. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 25. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 26. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 27. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 28. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 29. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 30. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 31. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 32. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 33. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 34. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 35. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 36. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 37. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 38. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 39. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 40. **Alto** (R. 18-1), 41. **Alto** (R. 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Saturday portrait: Francois Pienaar, by David Miller

Face of South Africa carries with pride the hopes of a nation

Earlier this week, the South Africa rugby squad went to the Civic Theatre in Johannesburg to see *Healing Against the Head*, a knockabout farce concerning two provincial ruggers who come to town and get into scrapes before, eventually, arriving at Ellis Park. With the domestic public raising the World Cup to the level of a lunar expedition, the players need all the relief that they can find.

At the final curtain, Francois Pienaar, the blond South Africa captain, whose broad Afrikaner face is, these days, perhaps more familiar than Nelson Mandela's, was invited onstage. Bill Flynn, the lead and a renowned comic actor, addressed the audience. Talking of the emotional national support behind the team for the semi-final today against France in Durban, Flynn was momentarily overcome and reduced to tears.

Returning to his seat, Pienaar shook his head and said to Morne du Plessis, the team manager and famous former captain: "The pressure on us really is becoming scary."

Before the tournament began, Pienaar was asked how he was handling the obsessive national interest. Remember, this is the man who was appointed captain, at 26, in 1993 on his first appearance and who was gouged by incessant criticism during South Africa's uneasy reformation period, when he led losing tours to Australia and New Zealand.

"I just tried to concentrate on captaining a rugby team," Pienaar said. "If I allowed the national expectation to get to me, I'm not sure I could cope." Either way, he has emerged as the most impressive captain in this tournament.

Because the detail is personal.

the story has yet to be fully told, but Pienaar is said to have made an unusual half-time talk when South Africa were neck and neck in the opening match with Australia. It was aimed at one or two specific team-mates.

Before the whistle, Christie had been asked if he wished to send a message down to Pienaar from the grandstand. "No, he knows what to do," Christie had answered. Du Plessis recalls that the talk was unconventional, emotional and characteristic of the man — "And it worked."

In some ways, Pienaar, more than Mandela, is the face of South Africa. Mandela represents the ancient roots of persecuted Black Africa. Pienaar is of the new generation, of the metamorphosis from the former discredited

'His special skill is to hit hard and fast in the tackle and to loosen the ball for the rest'

Whites. His is the face of future hope and ambition.

Pienaar was born the youngest of four brothers near the industrial town of Witbank, an hour or so east of Johannesburg, and of working-class parents. His formative years, at Witbank Patriot School and Rand Afrikaans University, in Johannesburg, studying law, occurred simultaneously with the agonising moral transformation of a great nation.

"He talks the new creed not just with words but with his heart; he doesn't carry the scars we do," du Plessis said. "He is in tune with the new South Africa, and will reprimand players who are unsympathetic. When Pienaar looks at Chester Williams, he sees a brilliant rugby wing, not a black man. It really is close to purity."

Pienaar first met Mandela early last year. It had been a lifetime ambition. "He told me about

Robben Island and his experience there, and asked me about rugby, of which he knows a lot," he said. "He's very excited about the World Cup. 'I never thought I should be a Springbok, because we were so isolated for so long. We should never forget that Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk brought South Africa back into the world, hand in hand.'"

Leadership is spontaneous, not taught, Mandela and Pienaar, both with law degrees, have it. Pienaar has the same self-possessed confidence of the nation's new president, equally without it being overbearing. At university, his nickname was "Eek", Afrikaans for "I". A bachelor and businessman, he wears trendy clothes and drives a jazzy sports car, but, as rugby captain, he was quick to insist that his team learn by heart, and sing, the new national anthem, *Nkosi Sikeleli Afrika* (God bless Africa) alongside the traditional *Die Stem* (The Voice).

"It had become a matter of pride," he said, "to know and sing it as it is meant to be sung, in the national tongue of Xhosa. It's important, because we represent the new South Africa, and there is no racism in our rugby."

When there were accusations, after the quarter-final against Western Samoa, that there had been racist comments by certain South Africa players towards the Samoans, Pienaar was indignant and emphatic in his denial. By all accounts, Pienaar has swings of mood, something that he has had to learn to control. His moods can drag him down and, such is his leadership, he takes the team with him.

His other weakness is a vulnerability to injury. He has had concussion more than once, including a bout that provoked an epileptic fit. He was knocked out when Transvaal won the Currie Cup in 1993, for the first time in more than 50 years; and, after another blow in New Zealand, he temporarily took to wearing a headguard, before abandoning it because he could not hear.

His forehead is testimony to his bravery, as scarred as a parking



lot bollard; and most of the bones of his upper body have been fractured.

The critics say that one of his first toys must have been a microphone. He is an easy communicator and that steady thin mouth is seldom long without a smile and curves upwards towards those deep blue eyes. When asked for an interview this week, the pressures obliged him to say no, though he added: "You can

have a week when it's all over." It was in some awe that he succeeded Naas Botha as captain: a 20-20 draw against France being the result on his debut, at Durban. "It was a frightful experience," he said. "I ran onto the field scared, not wanting to disappoint as a player, frightened not to make the right decisions."

In spite of being appointed at a time when outdated South African rugby was internationally over-

matched, and in spite of a regular stream of national dissatisfaction, he has more than held his ground. The team has steadily prospered and his unquestioned contribution was reflected in his nomination, in *International Rugby Review '94*, the Australian publication, as captain of a World XV.

Pienaar had thought the proclivity for violence had been mastered and was embarrassed by the punch-up with Canada in the pool

match. That the tendency is under control again was seen from the refusal to be provoked by disgraceful Samoan tackles. Now, there are only two matches to go.

"We must get to the final, because of home advantage," Pienaar said. "The public will say that anything less is a disaster, even though they never gave us a chance beforehand; but we must be graceful in defeat." Few think that likely to happen today.

Classic confrontation in prospect as old rivals duel for WBO title

Defence puts heavy burden on Bowe

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT
IN LAS VEGAS

THANKS to the perverse world of boxing, the paying customers will see two of the four best heavyweights in a world championship bout at the MGM Grand Garden here today.

As a result of the three leading governing bodies not ranking Riddick Bowe, the world's best heavyweight, in their lists, thereby drastically cutting down his options, Bowe has been forced to defend his World Boxing Organisation title against Jorge Luis Gonzalez, a Cuban exile, a man best avoided. It is like the Wimbledon seedings being turned upside down and the final match being played on the first day.

Bowe and Gonzalez are the biggest men to have come together in a world championship — Bowe 6ft 5in and 243lb, Gonzalez 6ft 7in and 237lb — and you have to go back to Larry Holmes's bout with Gerry Cooney, in 1992, to find such an exciting match, at least on paper.

Since his defection in Finland, in 1991, Gonzalez has won all of his 23 contests, 22 of

them ending inside the distance. His opponents have not been of the highest quality and Gonzalez has never looked impressive against them, but that is because he did not need to exert himself. Yet he remains a most dangerous opponent.

Gonzalez was the best amateur heavyweight in the Eighties, beating the great Teofilo

Stevenson, Bowe and Lennox Lewis, flooring the last two, Bowe four times.

He has never let Bowe forget that defeat. Indeed, in the process of reminding him over the years, their meetings have become more and more objectionable.

Gonzalez is reported to have said that he would make Bowe's pregnant wife a widow

before the child is born. Eddie Futch, 83, Bowe's trainer, said: "I'm saddened by the things that have happened and the slanderous things that have been said in an attempt to promote the fight." Bowe, however, retorted: "Gonzalez says he's a lion and he's going up against a hyena. The hyena always gets the last laugh."

After a series of violent

confrontations, the Nevada State Athletic Commission decided that the two could not meet in public before the bout. Mark Radner, its executive director, said that each would be fined \$250,000 if they defied the commission's order.

MGM Grand was told that it would be responsible for any disturbances that might be caused by the two volatile camps. Needless to say, the two have stayed apart, but that has not prevented obscenities from being exchanged across an imaginary dividing line.

So to the boxing. Bowe is the favourite because, as a professional, he is vastly improved technically from when Gonzalez beat him. Gonzalez, on the other hand, is still very much an amateur, training himself, and relying, mainly, on the jab and working for the last 30 seconds of each round.

Futch said that Bowe would not give Gonzalez room to use his long punches. While the strategy seems sound, Bowe has been increasingly easy to hit, in his past three contests, with the right hand. If the Cuban giant succeeds in catching Bowe with the same punch that beat him as an amateur, an upset could be in store.



Gonzalez in practice this week during an acrimonious build-up to his title challenge

Regan sure to set hectic pace

BY DANIEL BARRETT

ROBBIE REGAN, of Wales, will need to produce a performance of rare quality if he is to wrest the World Boxing Organisation flyweight title from Alberto Jimenez, the powerful Mexican, in their contest at the National Ice Rink in Cardiff tonight.

Regan, 27, the former British and European champion who is a clever boxer and who has the aggression to trade punches toe-to-toe when the need arises, has suffered only one loss in his 19 contests, and that was on cuts against the talented Francis Ampong, a defeat that Regan avenged.

Jimenez's record of three defeats in 33 contests, 24 of which were won by knockouts, may flatter him, for a number of the earlier victories came against journeymen.

There was, however, no mistaking the punching power that he displayed when stopping Jacob Matfala, the former champion, in the eighth round of their title contest in Pretoria in February.

If there is one doubt over Jimenez, it is his ability to stay the distance convincingly in a contest fought at pace. Marcellus Johnson, of the United States, presented just such a problem when he outpointed the flagging Mexican two years ago. Dai Gardner, Regan's manager, hinted that his charge might employ similar tactics when he said: "Robbie is quick, very quick. I think he'll surprise Jimenez."

Regan has claimed that he is "even hungrier for success" at world level, having waited two years for a title challenge

after injuries and postponements thwarted previous attempts.

The Welshman was stripped of his European title for failing to make a defence within the time stipulated by the European Boxing Union. He preferred to set his sights on the world title.

"It's been frustrating having to wait so long," he said. "Now I've finally got my chance. I'm not going to let it slip." Regan had been due to meet Matfala, only for the bout to fall through.

Having finally secured that opportunity, in front of his own crowd through the efforts of Frank Warren, the promoter, the plucky Welshman will certainly not be found lacking in heart. That may not, however, prove quite sufficient.

Drinks, drives and more besides on field of dreams

What is the finest cricket ground in the country? A grievous and vexatious question. The most important criteria are, surely, an idiosyncratic nature and the absolute proximity of the pub.

That makes me wonder if there is a ground in the world that can rival Thornton Watlass, in North Yorkshire. The team plays in the Wensleydale League and the ground is the authentic field of dreams. For a start, a road runs across it and the field of play includes a pub car-park.

However, perhaps the finest feature of all is that the front door of the Buck Inn also stands within the boundary. This is a particularly useful attribute if you happen to be fielding at long-off.

Also within the boundary are four trees, a series of wooden posts marking the road and an S-bend sign.

Hitting the pub counts only four; you have to clear it altogether for a six. The same applies to a hedge on the opposite side of the ground. You cannot be out caught if you hit one of the trees first.

John Bell, the club secretary, said: "If the ball lands in a tree, players continue running until the fielder declares a lost ball. We don't often mention this to newcomers. When a car comes through the pitch, we usually say, 'I like the "usually"; it shows considerable style.'"

Having a brawl

You can ask for trouble, or you can go down on your knees and beg for it. So, if you happen to work in baseball, and you promote something called a Strike Out Domestic Violence Night, there is only one thing that can happen. It did, when Durham Bulls met Winston-Salem Warthogs last week. The inevitable brawl lasted 30 minutes.

Sports Illustrated, the American magazine, collected some of baseball history's other promotions from hell, including: Ladies Day, 1897: paralytic women stormed the field and hurled bricks at match officials;

SIMON BARNES
On Saturday

Hot Pants Night, 1971: free tickets for women who paraded on the field in hot pants. They expected 500 and got 5,000.

Reggie Bar Day, 1978: free chocolate bars all round: 40,000 fans fuming the bars onto the field when Reggie Jackson hit a home run.

Disco Demolition Night, 1979: a stunt for blowing up discredited disco records on the field which led to a mass pitch invasion, riot and fire.

Losing record
The commiserations of this column go to Gussie Mae.

Come down, Gus, you lost that one too

THE WORST EVER

who missed, by a single race, the chance to become what Americans call "the losingest horse in thoroughbred history". This month, at Atlantic City, over seven furlongs, Gussie Mae, after five years and just 85 previous races, finally won a race. He led from start to finish, in fact.

As a result, he only ties for the longest losing streak in history, sharing the record with a horse called Really A Tenor. Defeat at Atlantic City would have given him the record alone. His owner, who is called, I promise you, Kandace Alfa, said: "We've waited a long time. I'm relieved. It's over, and also very happy."

Ultimate Babe

They have put up a statue, Babe Ruth, at Baltimore's new stadium, built on the site of a tavern formerly kept by Babe's father. This is a splendid and appropriately enormous: it is 9ft high.

Experts were consulted in every stage of production, baseball people being serious about detail. Even the size of Babe's belt-loops had to be properly vetted.

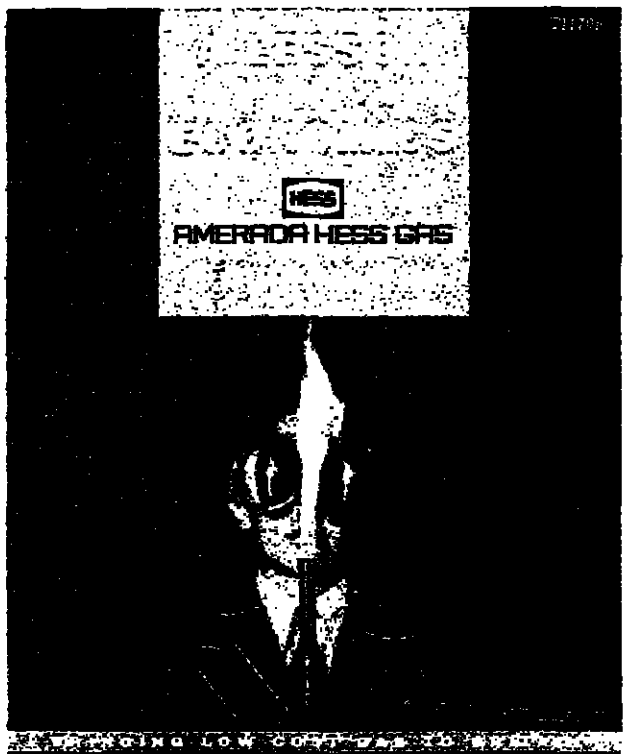
The statue, then, is utterly authentic — except for the fact that Ruth is portrayed as a right-hander. His fielding glove is on the wrong hand.

All out of love

Gazza was supposed to be the man that the Lazio supporters truly loved. Yet, when it was announced that he was leaving the club, there was no great popular reaction; certainly nothing to compare with that which followed the news of the proposed departure of Giuseppe Signori.

A spontaneous demonstration of 1,000 supporters marched through Rome, swelling to 3,000 as they made their way through the Piazza del Popolo and then along the Via Sistina, smashing the odd window as they went. At the end of it all, Sergio Cragnotti, the Lazio owner, announced brokenly: "I'm leaving. I'm giving up. I'm putting Lazio on the market." In fact, he relented, and Signori stayed.

Walter Zenga, the Sampdoria goalkeeper, summed up: "There is no room in our country, with our mentality, for people of Gazza's type. That is why he went. We are innovative and revolutionary only in words. Then, when it comes to facts, we massacre any one who steps out of line. It happened to me, years ago. Gazza was too much himself. No one forgave him."



France's travelling not final

Dear A New Zealand have you 15 seats Sunday night England to 6-10pts

NEW ZEALAND

SOUTH AFRICA

0800 524 52

Ladbrokes

South Africa take tactical gamble France's seasoned travellers seek out final frontier

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN JOHANNESBURG

It is all, they argue, a question of preparation. In France they go to what Laurent Baker, describes as a "mosaic club", of different strengths and fitness requirements, and meet together only three days before a five nations championship match, on tour, or in a World Cup, each year achieves the same physical and mental levels high, on a given day, will at any opponent.

But South Africa, in Durban, today, before 50,000 supporters who expect, nay demand, that their country should win the final? Why not? In 1987, in Sydney, France destroyed the expectation of a nation by beating Australia in the World Cup semi-final that remains an enduring memory. In 14 international played in South Africa before the World Cup, France have won four and forced four draws - 10 of them in Durban.

Whether they win, however, will depend on the back row - half back link fractured - totally - by injuries to Philippe Benetton and Guy Schocherry against Scotland and on the ability of Christophe Deylaud, at stand-off



half, to recapture some consistency. In the quarter-final last weekend, Ireland were not strong enough to expose any deficiencies in that area, but South Africa, led by Joost van der Westhuizen and Ruben Kruger, Northern Transvaal, will certainly try to do so.

"We think the Durban crowd can carry us through this one," Morné du Plessis, the manager, said. "They really have a cause to shout for." They also have Mark Andrews and André Joubert - players who will need all the support that they can get. Both Natal men, Andrews must adapt with all celerity to the game played at No 8, rather than at lock, in the most controversial tactical switch so far made in this tournament, while Joubert risks his damaged hand at full back.

Du Plessis insisted that he and Kitch Christie, the coach, see Andrews's move as one with potential evolutionary effects for South Africa. "We have been getting away with three medium-sized men in the back row in our provincial rugby whereas the rest of the world has been going the other way," du Plessis said. "The only other country who has not put so much emphasis on it is New Zealand."

If, however, the experiment is seen to fail - and with it the South Africa team - management heads will sit uneasily on shoulders. Andrews has also been picked to counter what Christie believes is the best lineup in the tournament, one in which Olivier Merle has become a key figure, far removed from the somewhat statuesque figure of last season, whose fitness was in doubt because he was forced, while qualifying for his new club, to play so much second-team rugby for Montpellier.

Joubert, who underwent an operation to put metal pins in his hand after being injured in the win against Western Samoa, is confident that the injury will not trouble him. "I feel I can play to my full ability," he said yesterday. "I did some tackling in training and was fielding high balls without any problem."

The French, meanwhile, sustained minor injuries in a bruising warm-up match against the Correctional Services Club, in Pretoria. Marc Cédillon damaged a wrist and Thierry Lacroix received a knock on the shoulder against a side featuring five former Northern Transvaal players. Both are expected to be fit.

Durban may not be the most comfortable of places today. The weather is breaking, the wind rising and the goalkeepers will not find it easy; but the French familiarised themselves with the characteristics of the King's Park ground against Ireland, when Lacroix kicked 26 points, and they are in just the mood to give Pierre Berbizier, their coach, a 37th birthday present.

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Chalmers, the Scotland stand-off, tried shirt-tugging in an effort to stop Lomu during the quarter-final. Photograph: Howard Burditt

Lomu looms large in England planning

David Hands points out that the best way to stop the awesome New Zealand wing is to ensure that he does not get the ball

If a vague, dark shadow has haunted Tony Underwood's dreams this week, who could blame him? Jonah Lomu has been haunting wings throughout this World Cup, and, in Cape Town tomorrow, the younger Underwood becomes the latest player to stand in his path when New Zealand step out against England.

Not that Underwood is given to much reflection on the awful task. A few platitudes mask the determination to accept the challenge, a World Cup semi-final is far more than a clash between two individuals, however talented, and to build an opponent into a bogeyman is counter-productive both for Underwood and for the team.

Yet, in three of New Zealand's four matches, Lomu has either been scoring tries himself or creating them for others. What, then, are England to do about this man? The trite answer is to deny him possession. New Zealand may field Superman, cape and all, on their wing, but if he does not get the ball, he cannot contribute.

Craig Joiner was the last player to have the dubious privilege of marking him, in the quarter-final against Scotland. "I tried to make him go on the outside, but I didn't really know how fast he is," the Melrose wing said. "I was left flat-footed."

"He runs straight at you,

seems to slow down and then increases his pace and it's quite deceptive. He's good off the left foot and once went inside, then outside, me. I found the best tackle was to go for his arm first - otherwise he will hand you off - and then try to grab a leg or his shirt, but it's not easy."

Not only does Lomu have thighs like tree trunks, but when 19st leans into a hand-off at speed, even so strong a player as Gavin Hastings feels the effect. Lomu combines the characteristics of Va'aiga Tuigamala and John Kirwan, two previous New Zealand wings, only he is bigger and faster than both.

He may not have Kirwan's all-round ability, but, as he is only 20, that may come. Rory Underwood, En-

gland's most-capped player, makes the point that the best time to tackle Lomu is just as he receives the ball, before he can get into his stride. "If you have to make a side tackle, you must go below the arm and you can't go higher than the knee because you'll just bounce off," he said.

"The trouble is, he's got such a huge stride, it's difficult to get your arms round both legs, so it's important to put in multiple tackles, as we did with the Lions in New Zealand two years ago. If you make the initial tackle, someone else has to come in quickly and knock him over; but I'm sure that he, on his side, will have been thinking about Tony running at him and, in a one-on-one, I'd put my money on Tony."

If England can play cannily enough to put Lomu off his game, to create uncertainty in his mind, they may reduce his effect. England's primary plan must be to dominate possession as much as possible and, when they do not, to place on the New Zealand midfield the same kind of pressure that they managed against Llyngh. Horan and Little, of Australia.

They can also kick intelligently so as to make Lomu turn. Big men, by necessity, are slightly slower on the turn, but England must avoid the poor kicking of last Sunday, when Will Carling twice surrendered possession to David Campese in space. They must wait until the New Zealand back line is committed, kicking not from Rob Andrew, at

stand-off half, when Lomu. Jeff Wilson and Glen Osborne will still be hanging back to cover the kick, but from inside centre.

The modern defensive alignment often operates on a crescent moon formation, in which the wings are ahead of the midfield. If Lomu is keen to close with his man, and then finds the diagonal kick falling behind him, it must create doubt in a mind still coming to terms with international rugby.

Lomu is a raw, untutored force and England must impose on him a game with which he has not, so far in his brief career, had to deal. A New Zealand colleague once asked Lomu how he would tackle himself. He thought about the answer and then replied: "My mum can manage it," betraying a sense of humour which may not be altogether apparent to Tony Underwood.

SOUTH AFRICA		FRANCE	
J. Joubert (Natal)	15	J-L. Sadourny (Colomiers)	15
T. Small (Natal)	14	E. Ntamack (Toulouse)	14
C. Mulder (Transvaal)	13	P. Sella (Agen)	13
P. le Roux (Transvaal)	12	T. Lacroix (Dax)	12
M. Williams (Western Province)	11	P. Saint-André (Montfermeil)	11
T. Stranely (Western Province)	10	C. Deylaud (Toulouse)	10
H. van der Westhuizen (Natal)	9	F. Galthié (Colomiers)	9
de Randt (Orange Free State)	8	L. Amey (Lourdes)	8
L. C. Rossouw (Transvaal)	7	J-M. González (Bayonne)	7
Swart (Transvaal)	6	C. Galfano (Toulouse)	6
F. Pienaar (Transvaal)	5	A. Benazet (Agen)	5
J. Wiese (Transvaal)	4	O. Merle (Montfermeil)	4
J. Strydom (Transvaal)	3	O. Roumat (Dax)	3
K. Kruger (Northern Transvaal)	2	L. Cabannes (Racing)	2
G. Andrews (Natal)	1	M. Cédillon (Bourgnon)	1

* captain
Referee: W.D. Bowen (Wales).
REPLACEMENTS: 16 G.K. Johnson (Transvaal), 17 C.P. Scholtz (Transvaal), 18 J.P. Roux (Transvaal), 19 A.W. Strauss (Transvaal), 20 G.L. Pienaar (Western Province), 21 L. C. Rossouw (Orange Free State).
REPLACEMENTS: 16 F. Meunier (Racing), 17 Y. Deshaies (Toulon), 18 A. Huser (Toulon), 19 A. Cigagna (Toulouse), 20 P. Gallat (St. Etienne), 21 L. Benazet (Racing).

Dear Air New Zealand, have you got 15 seats for Sunday night?

(England to win by 6-10pts: 8/1.)

NEW ZEALAND v ENGLAND

Cape Town, kick-off 2.00 pm tomorrow, live on TV.

10/11 NEW ZEALAND 10/11 ENGLAND (+7pts) 14/1 TIE

Forecast the result with England receiving a 7 point start.

First Tryscorer	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	32nd	33rd	34th	35th	36th	37th	38th	39th	40th	41st	42nd	43rd	44th	45th	46th	47th	48th	49th	50th	51st	52nd	53rd	54th	55th	56th	57th	58th	59th	60th	61st	62nd	63rd	64th	65th	66th	67th	68th	69th	70th	71st	72nd	73rd	74th	75th	76th	77th	78th	79th	80th	81st	82nd	83rd	84th	85th	86th	87th	88th	89th	90th	91st	92nd	93rd	94th	95th	96th	97th	98th	99th	100th																																																																																																																																																																							
1/1 J. Lomu	2/1 N. Z. win by 1-5 points	3/1 N. Z. win by 6-10 points	4/1 N. Z. win by 11-15 points	5/1 N. Z. win by 16-20 points	6/1 N. Z. win by 21-25 points	7/1 N. Z. win by 26-30 points	8/1 N. Z. win by 31-35 points	9/1 N. Z. win by 36-40 points	10/1 N. Z. win by 41-45 points	11/1 N. Z. win by 46-50 points	12/1 N. Z. win by 51-55 points	13/1 N. Z. win by 56-60 points	14/1 N. Z. win by 61-65 points	15/1 N. Z. win by 66-70 points	16/1 N. Z. win by 71-75 points	17/1 N. Z. win by 76-80 points	18/1 N. Z. win by 81-85 points	19/1 N. Z. win by 86-90 points	20/1 N. Z. win by 91-95 points	21/1 N. Z. win by 96-100 points	22/1 N. Z. win by 101-105 points	23/1 N. Z. win by 106-110 points	24/1 N. Z. win by 111-115 points	25/1 N. Z. win by 116-120 points	26/1 N. Z. win by 121-125 points	27/1 N. Z. win by 126-130 points	28/1 N. Z. win by 131-135 points	29/1 N. Z. win by 136-140 points	30/1 N. Z. win by 141-145 points	31/1 N. Z. win by 146-150 points	32/1 N. Z. win by 151-155 points	33/1 N. Z. win by 156-160 points	34/1 N. Z. win by 161-165 points	35/1 N. Z. win by 166-170 points	36/1 N. Z. win by 171-175 points	37/1 N. Z. win by 176-180 points	38/1 N. Z. win by 181-185 points	39/1 N. Z. win by 186-190 points	40/1 N. Z. win by 191-195 points	41/1 N. Z. win by 196-200 points	42/1 N. Z. win by 201-205 points	43/1 N. Z. win by 206-210 points	44/1 N. Z. win by 211-215 points	45/1 N. Z. win by 216-220 points	46/1 N. Z. win by 221-225 points	47/1 N. Z. win by 226-230 points	48/1 N. Z. win by 231-235 points	49/1 N. Z. win by 236-240 points	50/1 N. Z. win by 241-245 points	51/1 N. Z. win by 246-250 points	52/1 N. Z. win by 251-255 points	53/1 N. Z. win by 256-260 points	54/1 N. Z. win by 261-265 points	55/1 N. Z. win by 266-270 points	56/1 N. Z. win by 271-275 points	57/1 N. Z. win by 276-280 points	58/1 N. Z. win by 281-285 points	59/1 N. Z. win by 286-290 points	60/1 N. Z. win by 291-295 points	61/1 N. Z. win by 296-300 points	62/1 N. Z. win by 301-305 points	63/1 N. Z. win by 306-310 points	64/1 N. Z. win by 311-315 points	65/1 N. Z. win by 316-320 points	66/1 N. Z. win by 321-325 points	67/1 N. Z. win by 326-330 points	68/1 N. Z. win by 331-335 points	69/1 N. Z. win by 336-340 points	70/1 N. Z. win by 341-345 points	71/1 N. Z. win by 346-350 points	72/1 N. Z. win by 351-355 points	73/1 N. Z. win by 356-360 points	74/1 N. Z. win by 361-365 points	75/1 N. Z. win by 366-370 points	76/1 N. Z. win by 371-375 points	77/1 N. Z. win by 376-380 points	78/1 N. Z. win by 381-385 points	79/1 N. Z. win by 386-390 points	80/1 N. Z. win by 391-395 points	81/1 N. Z. win by 396-400 points	82/1 N. Z. win by 401-405 points	83/1 N. Z. win by 406-410 points	84/1 N. Z. win by 411-415 points	85/1 N. Z. win by 416-420 points	86/1 N. Z. win by 421-425 points	87/1 N. Z. win by 426-430 points	88/1 N. Z. win by 431-435 points	89/1 N. Z. win by 436-440 points	90/1 N. Z. win by 441-445 points	91/1 N. Z. win by 446-450 points	92/1 N. Z. win by 451-455 points	93/1 N. Z. win by 456-460 points	94/1 N. Z. win by 461-465 points	95/1 N. Z. win by 466-470 points	96/1 N. Z. win by 471-475 points	97/1 N. Z. win by 476-480 points	98/1 N. Z. win by 481-485 points	99/1 N. Z. win by 486-490 points	100/1 N. Z. win by 491-495 points	101/1 N. Z. win by 496-500 points	102/1 N. Z. win by 501-505 points	103/1 N. Z. win by 506-510 points	104/1 N. Z. win by 511-515 points	105/1 N. Z. win by 516-520 points	106/1 N. Z. win by 521-525 points	107/1 N. Z. win by 526-530 points	108/1 N. Z. win by 531-535 points	109/1 N. Z. win by 536-540 points	110/1 N. Z. win by 541-545 points	111/1 N. Z. win by 546-550 points	112/1 N. Z. win by 551-555 points	113/1 N. Z. win by 556-560 points	114/1 N. Z. win by 561-565 points	115/1 N. Z. win by 566-570 points	116/1 N. Z. win by 571-575 points	117/1 N. Z. win by 576-580 points	118/1 N. Z. win by 581-585 points	119/1 N. Z. win by 586-590 points	120/1 N. Z. win by 591-595 points	121/1 N. Z. win by 596-600 points	122/1 N. Z. win by 601-605 points	123/1 N. Z. win by 606-610 points	124/1 N. Z. win by 611-615 points	125/1 N. Z. win by 616-620 points	126/1 N. Z. win by 621-625 points	127/1 N. Z. win by 626-630 points	128/1 N. Z. win by 631-635 points	129/1 N. Z. win by 636-640 points	130/1 N. Z. win by 641-645 points	131/1 N. Z. win by 646-650 points	132/1 N. Z. win by 651-655 points	133/1 N. Z. win by 656-660 points	134/1 N. Z. win by 661-665 points	135/1 N. Z. win by 666-670 points	136/1 N. Z. win by 671-675 points	137/1 N. Z. win by 676-680 points	138/1 N. Z. win by 681-685 points	139/1 N. Z. win by 686-690 points	140/1 N. Z. win by 691-695 points	141/1 N. Z. win by 696-700 points	142/1 N. Z. win by 701-705 points	143/1 N. Z. win by 706-710 points	144/1 N. Z. win by 711-715 points	145/1 N. Z. win by 716-720 points	146/1 N. Z. win by 721-725 points	147/1 N. Z. win by 726-730 points	148/1 N. Z. win by 731-735 points	149/1 N. Z. win by 736-740 points	150/1 N. Z. win by 741-745 points	151/1 N. Z. win by 746-750 points	152/1 N. Z. win by 751-755 points	153/1 N. Z. win by 756-760 points	154/1 N. Z. win by 761-765 points	155/1 N. Z. win by 766-770 points	156/1 N. Z. win by 771-775 points	157/1 N. Z. win by 776-780 points	158/1 N. Z. win by 781-785 points	159/1 N. Z. win by 786-790 points	160/1 N. Z. win by 791-795 points	161/1 N. Z. win by 796-800 points	162/1 N. Z. win by 801-805 points	163/1 N. Z. win by 806-810 points	164/1 N. Z. win by 811-815 points	165/1 N. Z. win by 816-820 points	166/1 N. Z. win by 821-825 points	167/1 N. Z. win by 826-830 points	168/1 N. Z. win by 831-835 points	169/1 N. Z. win by 836-840 points	170/1 N. Z. win by 841-845 points	171/1 N. Z. win by 846-850 points	172/1 N. Z. win by 851-855 points	173/1 N. Z. win by 856-860 points	174/1 N. Z. win by 861-865 points	175/1 N. Z. win by 866-870 points	176/1 N. Z. win by 871-875 points	177/1 N. Z. win by 876-880 points	178/1 N. Z. win by 881-885 points	179/1 N. Z. win by 886-890 points	180/1 N. Z. win by 891-895 points	181/1 N. Z. win by 896-900 points	182/1 N. Z. win by 901-905 points	183/1 N. Z. win by 906-910 points	184/1 N. Z. win by 911-915 points	185/1 N. Z. win by 916-920 points	186/1 N. Z. win by 921-925 points	187/1 N. Z. win by 926-930 points	188/1 N. Z. win by 931-935 points	189/1 N. Z. win by 936-940 points	190/1 N. Z. win by 941-945 points	191/1 N. Z. win by 946-950 points	192/1 N. Z. win by 951-955 points	193/1 N. Z. win by 956-960 points	194/1 N. Z. win by 961-965 points	195/1 N. Z. win by 966-970 points	196/1 N. Z. win by 971-975 points	197/1 N. Z. win by 976-980 points	198/1 N. Z. win by 981-985 points	199/1 N. Z. win by 986-990 points	200/1 N. Z. win by 991-995 points	201/1 N. Z. win by 996-1000 points	202/1 N. Z. win by 1001-1005 points	203/1 N. Z. win by 1006-1010 points	204/1 N. Z. win by 1011-1015 points	205/1 N. Z. win by 1016-1020 points	206/1 N. Z. win by 1021-1025 points	207/1 N. Z. win by 1026-1030 points	208/1 N. Z. win by 1031-1035 points	209/1 N. Z. win by 1036-1040 points	210/1 N. Z. win by 1041-1045 points	211/1 N. Z. win by 1046-1050 points	212/1 N. Z. win by 1051-1055 points	213/1 N. Z. win by 1056-1060 points	214/1 N. Z. win by 1061-1065 points	215/1 N. Z. win by 1066-1070 points	216/1 N. Z. win by 1071-1075 points	217/1 N. Z. win by 1076-1080 points	218/1 N. Z. win by 1081-1085 points	219/1 N. Z. win by 1086-1090 points	220/1 N. Z. win by 1091-1095 points	221/1 N. Z. win by 1096-1100 points	222/1 N. Z. win by 1101-1105 points	223/1 N. Z. win by 1106-1110 points	224/1 N. Z. win by 1111-1115 points	225/1 N. Z. win by 1116-1120 points	226/1 N. Z. win by 1121-1125 points	227/1 N. Z. win by 1126-1130 points	228/1 N. Z. win by 1131-1135 points	229/1 N. Z. win by 1136-1140 points	230/1 N. Z. win by 1141-1145 points	231/1 N. Z. win by 1146-1150 points	232/1 N. Z. win by 1151-1155 points	233/1 N. Z. win by 1156-1160 points	234/1 N. Z. win by 1161-1165 points	235/1 N. Z. win by 1166-1170 points	236/1 N. Z. win by 1171-1175 points	237/1 N. Z. win by 1176-1180 points	238/1 N. Z. win by 1181-1185 points	239/1 N. Z. win by 1186-1190 points	240/1 N. Z. win by 1191-1195 points	241/1 N. Z. win by 1196-1200 points	242/1 N. Z. win by 1201-1205 points	243/1 N. Z. win by 1206-1210 points	244/1 N. Z. win by 1211-1215 points	245/1 N. Z. win by 1216-1220 points	246/1 N. Z. win by 1221-1225 points	247/1 N. Z. win by 1226-1230 points	248/1 N. Z. win by 1231-1235 points	249/1 N. Z. win by 1236-1240 points	250/1 N. Z. win by 1241-1245 points	251/1 N. Z. win by 1246-1250 points	252/1 N. Z. win by 1251-1255 points	253/1 N. Z. win by 1256-1260 points	254/1 N. Z. win by 1261-1265 points	255/1 N. Z. win by 1266-1270 points	256/1 N. Z. win by 1271-1275 points	257/1 N. Z. win by 1276-1280 points	258/1 N. Z. win by 1281-1285 points	259/1 N. Z. win by 1286-1290 points	260/1 N. Z. win by 1291-1295 points	261/1 N. Z. win by 1296-1300 points	262/1 N. Z. win by 1301-1305 points	263/1 N. Z. win by 1306-1310 points	264/1 N. Z. win by 1311-1315 points	265/1 N. Z. win by 1316-1320 points	266/1 N. Z. win by 1321-1325 points	267/1 N. Z. win by 13

Northern hemisphere nations preparing to upset World Cup odds

England aim to seize final chance

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN JOHANNESBURG

THOUGH the possibility may be too awful for the South African public to contemplate, there is a serious chance that two northern hemisphere countries will meet in the final of the rugby union World Cup here on June 24. The book-makers may take South Africa to beat France in the first semi-final in Durban today and New Zealand to cast England aside in Cape Town tomorrow, but it would be a foolish man who followed their advice to the letter.

In the two previous World Cup finals, northern hemisphere played southern in ideal combinations. New Zealand, at home, beat France in 1987 and England, at home, lost to Australia in 1991. Home advantage cannot be ignored and South Africa will be roared on at King's Park today by the first capacity crowd of



Pienaar portrait 42
Lomu looms large 43
Final frontier 43

the tournament. "The whole of South Africa is with you," an airport attendant told Morné du Plessis, the manager, when the squad passed through the Jan Smuts terminal here recently. When informed that the whole of France was behind South Africa's opponents, the attendant retorted: "Yes, but we are all here."

South African Airways have laid on 57 additional flights so that supporters can watch both semi-finals on a weekend which will test the country's logistics to the limit.

Apart from the inspirational opening game of the tournament against the Australians, however, not once have the South Africans been altogether convincing. The same could be said, mind, of the other semi-finalists, with the exception of New Zealand, which should leave the All Blacks as the certainties to reach the final.

Yet they do not cast the same



Andrew and Carling warm to the task of facing New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final during training in Johannesburg yesterday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

spell as they did in the 1991 tournament, when a tentative England lost to them 18-12 in the opening match. Seven members of that England side remain here, against four of New Zealand's, and it does not matter which of the Englishmen you speak to, they ooze determination. Ten of the team shared in the victory achieved by the British Isles in Wellington in the summer of 1993 and 11 in England's win that autumn in Twickenham.

Of the England XV tomorrow, only Mike Catt has not known the joy of victory over New Zealand which, of itself,

means nothing, yet it can be clutched like a comforter in private. Dewi Morris has not played better at scrum half than he did in Wellington and he will be a significant figure at Newlands because of the man he marks, Graeme Bachop.

Everyone here has enthusiasm, quite justifiably, over the form of the young New Zealand stand-off half, Andrew Mehrtens. By and large Bachop has been overlooked, yet he is the man New Zealand have returned to at scrum half after examining the qualities of Ant Strachan, Jon Preston

and Stu Forster. Bachop, 28 last week, has seldom been the popular selection in New Zealand but his vision and the speed of his lovely pass are key factors in the style of rugby the All Blacks have played this year.

Just as England made a legitimate target of George Gregan when they beat Australia a week ago, so they must cut down Bachop's space and slow the service to the exciting New Zealand backs. Nobody in this tournament has yet been able to do so but if the ground, swept by rain for much of this week, remains

soft then England will find they have an ally.

They trained yesterday in private at the Wit's Technicon ground here in biting cold conditions more reminiscent of a British winter. The session taken by Will Carling, the captain, was as sharp as any on the tour, according to Jack Rowell, the manager, with the only proviso the occasion would not weigh too heavily.

"We are not backing down from challenges, that's why we are here," Tony Underwood, the wing who must face the 19st Tongan-born Jonah

Lomu, said for his colleagues. The players are also very aware of the growing support for their cause in Britain though in that respect, being isolated from the clamour, they are probably better off than the South Africans, who must read every day of the immense value attached to success by their own public.

Nobody need expect a significant change in style from England. Just as they did against Australia, they will seek to get in behind their opponents, recycle and drive the ball. Low error rate and

high tackle count will be the key phrases. Rob Andrew, England's record points-scorer and match-winner against Australia, and appointed an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours, knows the physical battering that awaits. Every New Zealand team down the years has focused on the key players in the opposition and tested their concentration to the limit yet Andrew, playing his 69th match for England, keeps coming back for more. If Mehrtens aspires to international longevity, he need look no further than the man opposite him.

England
linchpin
Andrew is
appointed
an MBE

By ALISON RUDD

ROB ANDREW, whose dramatic dropped goal against Australia secured England's semi-final place in the rugby union World Cup, has received a timely tribute by being appointed an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours. It is doubtful that the news will rock the New Zealand camp, but as Downing Street seeks to establish a more "classless" honours system, the announcement will receive widespread popular approval.

If Andrew and his colleagues manage to quash Jonah Lomu and a strong New Zealand side tomorrow, for many rugby followers the only way to hear about it will be through the commentary of Bill McLaren, the BBC's chief rugby commentator, who is appointed an OBE today. McLaren's distinctive Scottish lilt, colourful phrasing and even-handed enthusiasm are as entwined with rugby's greatest moments as Dan Maskell's commentaries were with those of Wimbledon. McLaren, 70, whose own international career was impeded by tuberculosis,

Yachtsmen knighted ... 10

sis, has been commenting for almost 30 years.

Thirty-five years as the mainstay of the Great Britain show jumping team were recognised with David Broome being appointed a CBE. Broome, who retired from team competition last year, is the only Briton to have won the world championship. He also won the European championship three times and the national championship six times. Broome was among the first riders to turn professional and, as a consequence, missed three Olympic Games.

Peter Beardsley, the England and Newcastle United footballer, is appointed an MBE as is Harry Gregg, the former Manchester United goalkeeper who is a survivor of the 1958 Munich air disaster. Robin Knox-Johnston and Peter Blake, who last year set a 74-day record for sailing non-stop around the world, are appointed knights. Blake captained *Black Magic*, the New Zealand yacht which won the America's Cup. Christopher Chataway, the former 5,000 metres world record-holder, is also appointed a knight.



Beardsley: MBE

Interview by David Hands

TOMORROW'S TEAMS IN CAPE TOWN

ENGLAND	NEW ZEALAND
M J Catt (Bath)	15 G M Osborne (North Harbour)
T Underwood (Leicester)	14 J W Wilson (Otago)
W D C Carling (Harlequins) *	13 F E Bunce (North Harbour)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12 W K Little (North Harbour)
R Underwood (Leicester/PAR)	11 J T Lomu (Counties)
C R Andrew (Wasps)	10 A Mehrtens (Canterbury)
C D Morris (Oreil)	9 G T M Bachop (Canterbury)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	1 C Dowd (Auckland)
B C Moore (Harlequins)	2 S B T Fitzpatrick (Auckland) *
V E Ubogu (Bath)	3 O M Brown (Auckland)
T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)	6 M R Brewer (Canterbury)
M O Johnson (Leicester)	4 I D Jones (North Harbour)
M C Dayfield (Northampton)	5 R M Brooke (Auckland)
B B Clarke (Bath)	7 J Kronfield (Otago)
D Richards (Leicester)	8 Z V Brooke (Auckland)

* captain
Referee: S R Hilditch (Ireland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J E B Cattard (Bath), 17 P R de Glanville (Bath), 18 K P P Bracken (Bristol), 19 S O Ojomoh (Bath), 20 G C Rowmire (Leicester), 21 R G R Daws (Bath).

REPLACEMENTS: 16 M O G Ellis (Otago), 17 S Cuthane (Southland), 18 A D Strachan (Nth Harbour), 19 J W Joseph (Otago), 20 R W Lee (Canterbury), 21 N Hewitt (Southland).

Keeping the faith to defeat New Zealand

Rob Andrew believes a tried and tested strategy can deliver a coveted place in the Rugby World Cup final

A week ago, Bob Dwyer, the Australia coach, was none too generous in his assessment of England's approach to rugby. Since then we have heard New Zealand pundits criticising our style, and it has caused a certain amount of amusement in our camp. We take such opinions as a compliment for we know they were, and are, worried about us.

England go into the World Cup semi-final against the All Blacks tomorrow with growing confidence in our ability as rugby players, and with no intention of changing our strategy. English backs may not be the most innovative in world rugby. While we do have some very talented individual footballers, you seldom see us doing double somersaults because that is not part of our character as rugby players.

But there is a basic ability and perception of the game which, if we keep faith with and work to improve it, will more often than not see us

through. That is what we hope to bring to tomorrow's semi-final against opponents whose direct approach is similar to our own. But our vision of 15-man rugby is not the same as theirs.

Look what happened to Australia against South Africa and against England. Defences are up so quickly in this tournament and the midfield is so cluttered that teams attempting the sort of switches and loops that the Australians tried will come to grief. This is not to say that we don't want to move the ball wide — we do, but we must do it properly.

It would be criminal to ignore the fact that we have one of the best packs in the world in terms of their ability to win quality ball and cross the gain line. Will Carling and Jerry Guscott

are both good at getting that ball in front of the forwards, who then recycle it, but where we have failed so far in this tournament is in making the link with the strike runners, the Underwood brothers and Mike Catt.

But you will not see fundamental change against New Zealand. There has been a measured response to the victory over Australia and we know there are areas in which we can and must improve. One is the ability to score points when the opportunity occurs and have the confidence to keep the ball in hand. We cannot afford to ignore the sort of chances that arose in Cape Town last week.

A lot of homework has been done on the All Blacks. Even the Australians admitted that our analysis of them was

pretty good and I believe we can combat the strengths the New Zealanders have shown here, too. They have looked very dangerous, full of running, but I don't think any opponent has yet put them under the sort of pressure that we can impose.

It is always the same with the All Blacks: once you let them across the gain line you are in trouble because they pour men into supporting positions. But, on the two occasions that many of the English players have beaten them, our defence was top notch and it will have to be again.

I sincerely hope that this England team has cast off an inability to sustain success. So often sides have celebrated and allowed themselves to believe that beating the best in the world once was enough. There is no such euphoria now, because a place in the semi-finals is not what we came for.



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Will
Le Mans
magic
work for
McLaren?
page 5



Win a
Rover
Tourer
for your
holiday
page 7



SATURDAY JUNE 17 1995

The car with the brains to drive itself

The Mercedes
E-class will do
everything
except steer for
you, says
Kevin Eason

The biggest disappointment with the new Mercedes E-class cars is that you have to bother to drive them.

If you are too tired to lift your left arm to switch on the wipers, the Merc will do it for you. If you can't back into that tight parking spot, no need to worry; the Merc will tell you when you get too close to the car behind. And if you end up in a skid, the Merc will do its best to sort things out. It will even protect you from the evils of pollution by keeping nasty gases out of the cabin.

A techno-freak's delight, the E-class models bristle with 11 electronic "brains" — 31 in the upmarket sports models — and a list of impressive sounding initials: ADS, ETS, ABS, APS, even ESP, that underline the wizardry under the bonnet. There are so many gadgets, it is difficult to think of anything else the Mercedes motorist could want. A radio, perhaps? Er, actually, if you want one of those, you have to buy it yourself, although those nice chaps at Mercedes have installed wiring for speakers.

The omission is unlikely to deter buyers who will be queuing up for their E-class car when it is launched in Europe later this month, and in Britain in October.

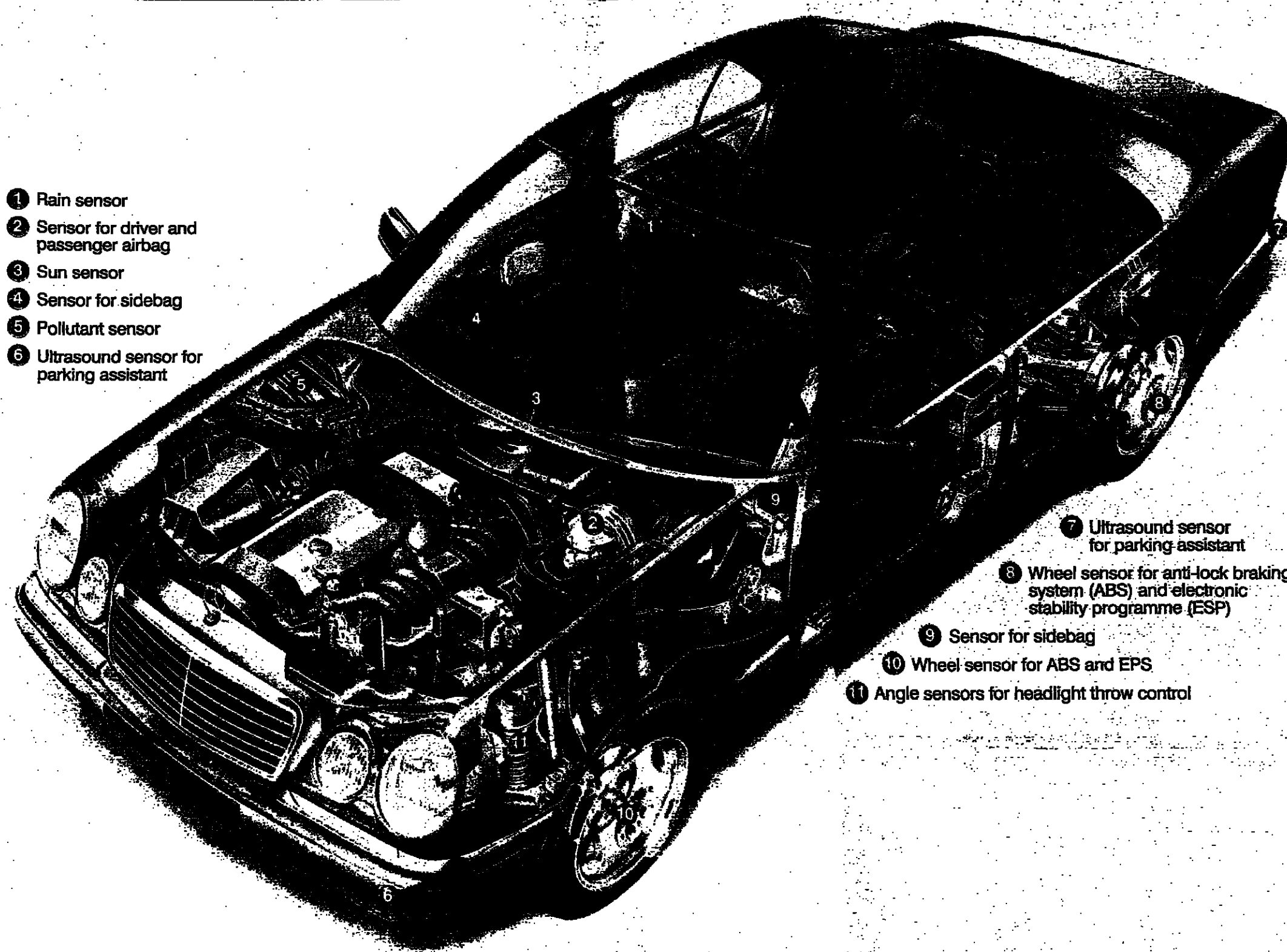
The E-class is the biggest-selling Mercedes, with 2.7 million leaving showrooms over the past 11 years, including more than 100,000 here. The current W124 models turn up as diesel-powered taxis, high-powered executive cruisers and family estates and account for about half of all Mercedes sales. Trouble was that the old W124 was starting to look all of its 11 years, especially against the competition of BMW's 5 and 7-series and Audi's A6 and A8. So it was time for a revamp.

Unlike BMW, which has gone for evolutionary styling changes, executives at Mercedes have come over all radical. New bug-eyed headlamps come straight from Ford's bottom drawer, distorting the classical Mercedes front-end. But Mercedes has a reason for everything, and in the case of the headlamps, they are there because they work better, say the engineers. Top versions get xenon gas discharge lamps, twice as bright as conventional lamps, which should last the lifetime of the car, while lenses are plastic instead of glass, cutting weight by half. They are also clever: a sensor detects the movement of the body, dipping the brilliant beam as loads increase in the rear so that oncoming drivers are not dazzled.

Depending on which of three variants — the base Classic, middle Elegance and top level Avantgarde — you choose, the array of gadgets is breathtaking. E-class also has an electronic "nose" which detects carbon monoxide and nitrous oxides from vehicle exhausts. When levels are too high, the sensor closes the air recirculation flap to keep the pollution outside.

The E-class also figures out when it is raining, thanks to a windscreen moisture sensor, which will switch on the wiper

- 1 Rain sensor
- 2 Sensor for driver and passenger airbag
- 3 Sun sensor
- 4 Sensor for sidebag
- 5 Pollutant sensor
- 6 Ultrasound sensor for parking assistant



- 7 Ultrasound sensor for parking assistant
- 8 Wheel sensor for anti-lock braking system (ABS) and electronic stability programme (ESP)
- 9 Sensor for sidebag
- 10 Wheel sensor for ABS and EPS
- 11 Angle sensors for headlight throw control



The new Mercedes E-class has every technical refinement, including self-adjusting headlights — but no radio

and decide how fast it should sweep the windscreen. And even if you are unsighted when parking, Mercedes offers ultrasonic sensors which beep as you close in on surrounding cars, like a submarine sonar.

Safety steps up a gear with the introduction of optional side airbags, which burst from the door panel within seven milliseconds of impact. And what of the initials? ASR is acceleration skid control, which determines the spinning speed of the wheels when the throttle pedal is flattened too heavily; ETS is electronic traction support to intervene when wheels spin on slippery roads to even up traction; ADS is adaptive damping system, controlling the stiffness of the suspension, and APS a naviga-

tion system available from next year. ESP — electronic stability program — does the thinking when it detects that the yaw, lateral acceleration and steering wheel angle means a skid, and cuts engine power and controls brake pressure.

With all those sensors thinking alongside you, the act of driving seems an intrusion on the efforts of Mercedes engineers, who must be like the hi-fi freaks who spend thousands on woofers and tweeters and then invest so much time listening for wow and flutter they forget what record they put on. The E-class might be packed with high-tech engineering, but there is little of the

"feel-good" factor in the cabin. Seats are of traditional Mercedes back-breaking orthopaedic firmness while the textures and ambience are more spartan than welcoming.

The four-cylinder cars are noisy, and feel unrefined with a woolly manual gearshift. Best car I tested was the six-cylinder E320 automatic, which felt pacy but smooth and which cornered with an ease that will be appreciated by buyers in this market, where 95 per cent of the cars are bought with a company cheque and the Mercedes-Benz virtues of technology, strength and solidity count for everything.

Those customers know that their E-class will keep its value better than almost any other car on the road.

Tony Dawe on the shock of phoney bills

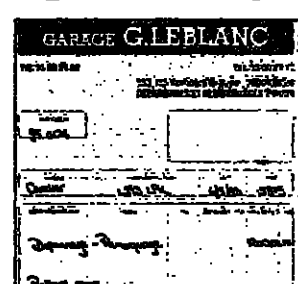
Members accuse AA of posting a frightener

THE AA has been accused of breaching advertising codes after sending out phoney French garage bills to 50,000 members as part of a campaign to persuade them to take out the organisation's Five Star travel service.

Many were shocked and bewildered by the bills, which looked authentic and included a demand for Fr2016.20 (about £256) for recovery, repairs and a new battery from Garage G. Leblanc of Rouen.

The bills arrived in airmail envelopes also containing a handwritten form advising recipients that they had been fined Fr900 for failing to switch on hazard lights and for not displaying a warning triangle during an emergency motorway stop.

The British codes of advertising and sales practice says no advertisement should cause fear or distress without good reason. Road safety and anti-drink/drive campaigns are acceptable but the AA's use of shock tactics could land it in trouble with the Advertising Standards Authority. One motorist taken in was



Mary Grace, of north London, who had just returned from holiday when she opened the letter. "I was in a bleary state and really worried when this French bill fell out," she said. "I had been to France recently and started racking my brains trying to remember what had happened to the car."

"It was quite unnecessary. I would probably have taken the insurance anyway if I had been returning to France. Now I shall think twice."

John Wilson has sent an angry letter to the AA after a seriously ill friend received the bills after a motoring holiday in France. "This mailshot was designed to shock, and it well

did," he said. "Its effect could have been fatal."

The AA apologised yesterday for upsetting members with the campaign. An official said: "It would not be the AA's intention to cause any distress with any of our marketing activities. The purpose of the campaign was merely to highlight what might happen to members without the service, and the sort of garage and car-hire bills they could bring home with them."

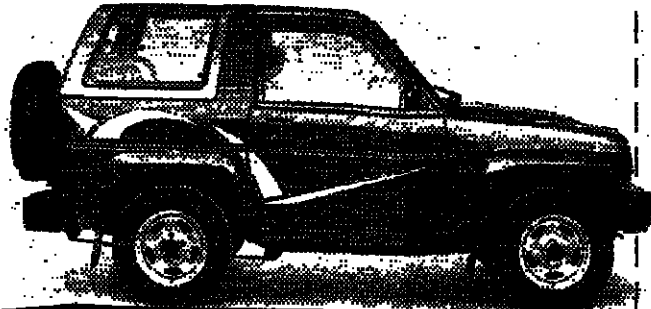
She added that the first line of the letter accompanying the bills said: "If you want to avoid returning from your holiday with a glovebox full of expenses like these, take out AA Five Star cover this summer". Unfortunately, many people did not notice the letter.

THE campaign will continue in a less alarming way. Thousands more members will receive GB stickers or miniature warning triangles through the post to warn them that they could be breaking the law if they take their cars abroad without them and to advertise the service.

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THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

LONDON

The Stella Artois tennis tournament continues until Sunday 18th June at Queens Club, Palisade Road, Kensington. Trooping the Colour is taking place at Horse Guards between 10am and 1pm today. Diversions. Delays also at Hyde Park corner and Trafalgar Square.

A406 North Circular Rd, Upper Edmonton. Widening work, reduced on Lea Valley Viaduct. A406 North Circular Rd, East Finchley. One lane in parts between the A1 and A1000. A219 Putney Bridge. One lane each way for repairs. A5201 Clarendon Rd, Clerkenwell. Closed at the junction with Farringdon Road for bridge works.

SOUTH EAST

Royal Ascot Races are on from Tuesday to Friday and will create congestion. Diversions will operate. M25 Surrey. Roadworks, lane closures, between J10 and 11 and J7 and J8. M23 J9 (Gatwick). Northbound queues in morning. M26 J1-2 (near M25, Kent). Contraflow for maintenance. A3 Guildford, Surrey. Major roadworks between Stoke Interchange and Compton. A21 Coopers Corner, nr Hurst Green, Sussex. Roadworks with temporary lights at junction with B2098.

SOUTH WEST

M5 Avon. Two contraflows for roadworks, between J19 and 17 (Portbury-Bristol West) and J17 and 16 (Bristol West-Almondsbury). The southbound entry slip road at J16 is also closed until 16th June.

M5 Gloucestershire. Two contraflows for roadworks, between J12 and 11 (Gloucester-Cheltenham) and at J9 (Tewkesbury).

A417 Gloucester. Contraflow on Barnwood Bypass. A36 nr Norton Saint Philip, Somerset. Roadworks at the junction with the A366.

A3074 Carbis Bay to Saint Ives, Cornwall. Roadworks with temporary lights. A39 Pannry, Cornwall. Two lanes only on river bridge during maintenance. A38 Bristol Road, Bridgwater, Somerset. Roadworks — long delays.

A303 Ichester Bypass, Somerset. Contraflow for bridge works at River Yeo bridge, resurfacing at Dancing Cross. A31 Ashley Heath Roundabout, Dorset. Lane closures. A377 Exeter Road, Crediton, Devon. Roadworks causing long delays.

MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

M1 nr J21 (Leicester). Contraflow lane closures. M6 West Midlands J5-6 (A462-A36M). Contraflow with three lanes each way and restrictions on the slip roads at J5. Additional overnight restrictions.

A45 Stonebridge, West Midlands. Flyover construction at the A452 junction & widening between the M42 J6 & Stonebridge Island. A453 Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, Midlands. New roadworks underway on Clifton Lane between Fabis Drive and

CLIFTON BRIDGE

A47 Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. New traffic lights being installed on Soke Parkway at junction with Bourges Boulevard. Lane closures will cause delays (until October).

NORTH

M6 Lancashire J29-32 (Bamber Bridge-Broughton). Widening works with only two lanes southbound at J31. M20-J22 (Lymm-Wilnecote) Cheshire.

Widening work, contraflow at J21a, causes severe delays. A1 Dishforth, North Yorkshire. Two narrow lanes each way through a contraflow. A1 Between Femybridge & Selby Fork, West Yorkshire.

Work starts 18th June in preparation for a contraflow. Long delays likely. A168 Dishforth, North Yorkshire. Temporary lights at the bridge over the A1.

A19 County Durham. Roadworks between Peterlee and Hawthorn. A41 Merseyside. Contraflow on the New Ferry Bypass.

A1 Stannington, Northumberland. Lane closures for bridge work. Long delays expected through the rush hour. A1058 Jeamond Road, Newcastle down to one lane each way on the Cradwell Bypass — until September.

WALES

A48 Dyfed. Contraflow in place west of J49 of the M4 (Port Abraham), for construction. A467 Newport, Gwent. Contraflow on Forge Lane while improvement work is underway on the A48 between J26 of the M4 and the Tredegar Park Roundabout.

A5 Maerdy, Chwyd. Improvements continue at the Glyn bands. Various restrictions including temporary lights at times & short term closures.

A465 West Glamorgan, between Llanidary and Aberdulas. Contraflow along the Saltings viaduct for resurfacing. Add an extra 30 minutes to your journey.

A4223 Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. A one-way system is operating on Gelliwastad Road due to widening.

A449 Gwent and A40 between Newport and Monmouth. Much of route reduced to one lane due to work on the bridge with various lane closures reducing much of the route to one lane.

SCOTLAND

M90 Tayside J10 (Frianon Bridge). Northbound lane closure, overnight contraflow. M8 Strathclyde J15-16. Outside lane closed westbound.

A91 Kirkcaldy, Fife. Width restrictions on St Clair Street for roadworks.

A8000 nr South Queensferry, Lothian. Temporary lights at Kirkcaldy Road for roadworks. Edinburgh. Lothian. Width restrictions on High Street between North and South bridges.

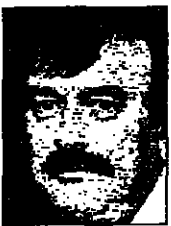
NORTHERN IRELAND

M1 between Blackmans Lane and Saintfield Road, Co Down. Closed both ways between 5am and 6pm. Diversions. A26 Ballymoney, Co Londonderry. Temporary lights Greenhill Road junction with the bypass.

As British holidaymakers cross to France, they face road tolls and terrible drivers, but can learn a thing or two

French lessons for our motorways

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

Several million British people will set out for the Channel ports this summer on the annual migration to France. We validate this journey in all manner of ways: reliable weather, great food, cheap wine. But, of course, none of those is the point at all. The point is to show the French how to drive a car properly.

I have just returned from two weeks in the south of France and, Calais to Calais, covered more than 2,000 miles. In case there are any French people reading this who regularly use their country's motorways — especially the A1, A26 and A6 — I was that weird *homme* in the maroon Renault 25 who tended to use his indicators when he changed lanes and desisted from roaring up behind people, jamming on his brakes then swerving violently into the next lane. In a word, I was the Brit.

There are some people who wonder at the carnage on French roads, but none of them has ever been there. France has about the same population as Britain and nearly four times as much space, and most of their motorways are about as congested as ours are on Christmas Day: yet French motorists manage to

kill each other at more than twice our rate.

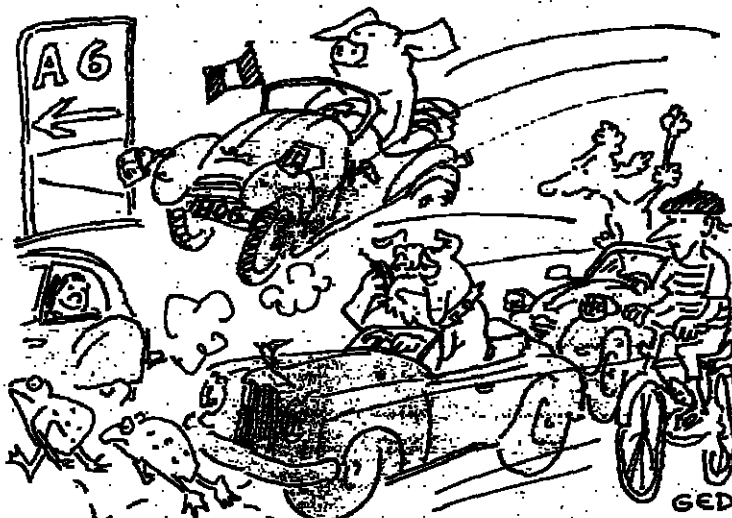
Indeed, I think the French are in some ways worse than the Italians because at least the latter are consistently mad whereas the French have sudden outbreaks of madness, much like a dog with rage syndrome. One minute the thing is asleep, the next it has eaten the cat.

Yet though it may be fun to think otherwise, I doubt that the French are intrinsically any worse behind the wheel than the rest of us. I think their problem is their much-vaunted roads, and we had better take that on board before it becomes our prob-

lem, too. The truth is that French autoroutes are wonderful, which they have a right to be, given the tolls: Paris to Cannes costs more than £88 return. Still, road works are kept to a minimum and usually halted over holidays (M25, please note), and they are liberally sprinkled with every kind of stopping place from picnic areas to full-scale services. But come off the autoroutes and you will find... drudgery. Many of the French *routes nationales* — equivalent to our A roads — are a nightmare if you get behind slow-moving traffic, and their surface quality is distinctly variable, to say the least.

The inevitable conclusion is that where people pay directly to use roads, money is ploughed back, but where they pay only indirectly, neglected sets in. With our own Transport Department blowing hot and cold over tolls, perhaps we had better hope that its indecision is final.

ONE lesson we can certainly learn from France is about the display of information. We are starting to use overhead gantries, but there are nowhere near enough of them. The French use these electronic displays to announce everything from the

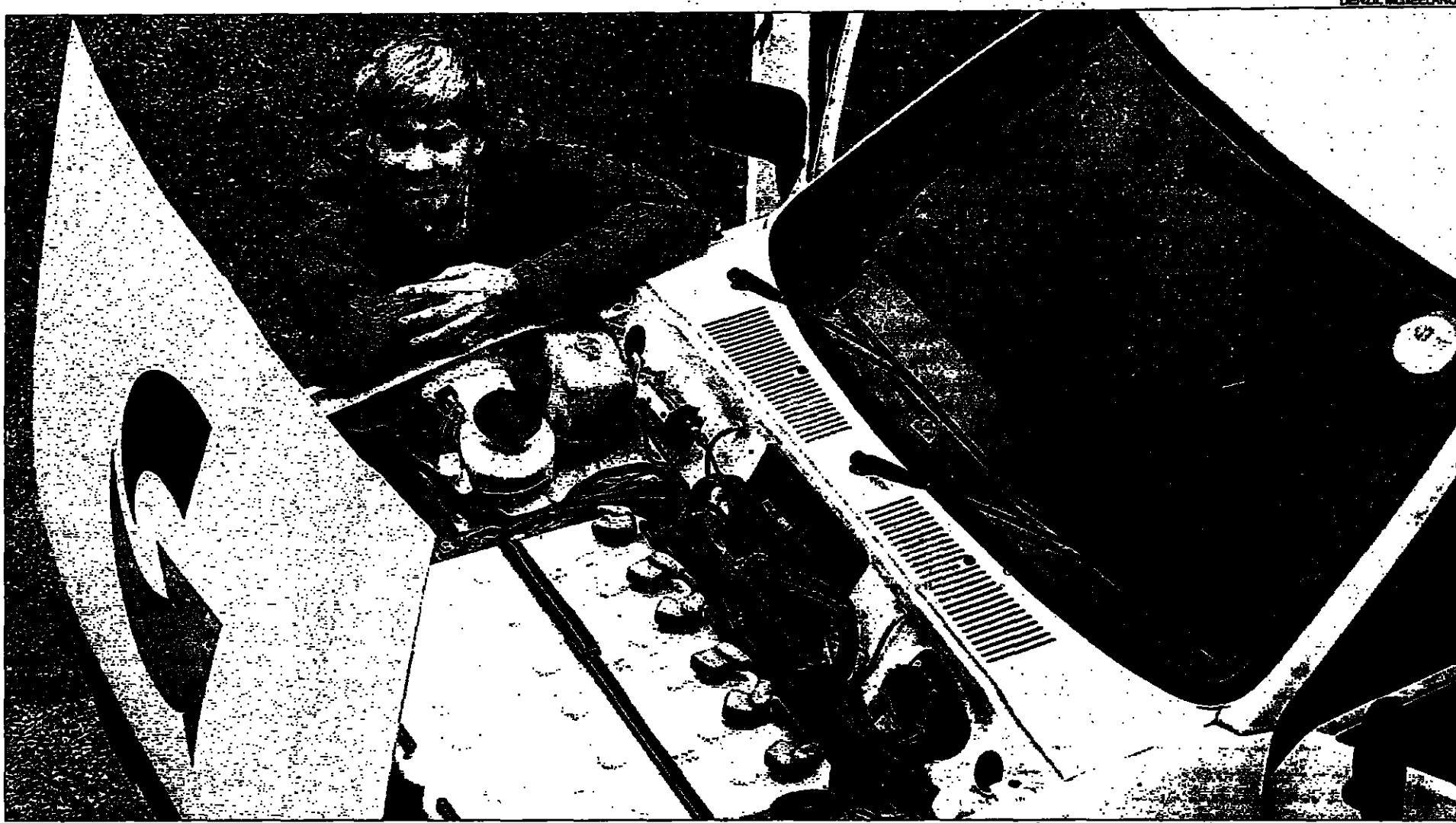


temperature to the next service area or an accident ahead — that last service saving me a great deal of frustration last week when I was able to pull off an autoroute and wait for an accident 20km ahead to be cleared away.

Most motorway crashes in this country are announced by a logjam of traffic ahead, usually when you have just passed an exit road. A few million spent on overhead technol-

ogy would save an awful lot of ground-level frustration, and pollution, which is in turn an important road safety benefit.

Drivers are known to regard motorway journeys as taking X amount of time, so after delays they speed up to compensate. Less time would be wasted if we could circumvent jams. Speeds would, therefore, be reduced and the risks on the roads reduced.



Something different under the bonnet: there are only a few hundred electric-powered cars to be seen on the roads in Britain out of a total of 23,000 vehicles — most of them milk floats

Has the British battery gone flat?

Whitehall is failing to support the electric car, says Jonathan Prynn

In September the world's first mass-produced electric passenger car will roll off a Peugeot production line in Mulhouse, eastern France. It is not an event that will have Henry Ford turning in his grave... yet.

Only a few thousand of the specially adapted Peugeot 106s will be produced a year and initially they will all be for the French market. A right-hand drive model for Britain is not likely to be available until the end of next year. But the move will make Peugeot the world leader in the small but growing electric vehicle industry and will wrest leadership in the field from Britain, where there are about 23,000 registered electric vehicles.

Of these about 17,000 are milk floats and most of the rest operate at airports or warehouses. No more than a few hundred are likely to be regularly used passenger vehicles.

Part of the reason is availability. The few cars on the market are expensive to buy and have to be made to order. Also, the technology allows a journey range of only about 50 miles, or three hours driving. "There is no question that in this century, and probably for quite a long time after that, there will not be an electric vehicle available for driving from

London to Edinburgh," says Brian Roden, of the Electric Vehicles Association. More realistically, they would make an ideal runabout for trips in town, where the problems of air pollution are most acute.

"The perfect thing for Mr Suburbia would be an electric Mini and a Y-reg Jaguar XJS," says Mark Radford, managing director of Atlantis Classics, which makes the Atlantis Electric Mini. "When you wanted to do everyday motoring you would use the electric car. When you wanted to go and burn up some miles, you would have the comfort and speed of the Jag."

Mr Radford insists that such an arrangement would be economically viable. "The Jag does about 14 miles to the gallon, so it's going to cost you

an absolute fortune. On the other hand, the electric Mini costs between 30 and 40 pence to recharge, so you could travel 458 miles for the price of a gallon of petrol."

The company hopes to produce 50 electric cars next year, making a mass-market manufacturer in Britain, where an order for two vehicles gets the champagne corks popping.

For all its protestations of concern about the car emission, the Government has given almost no help to the movement, unlike its French counterpart. Indeed, electric vehicle enthusiasts claim the Government has positively hindered development by imposing a £35 excise duty for the first time next month. The Government insists that the drive towards zero-emission motoring must be market led.

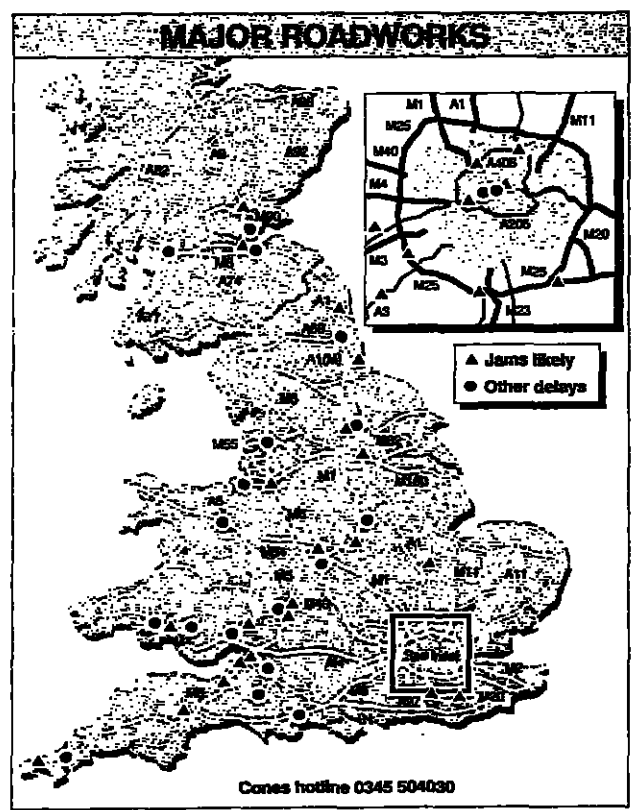
Most of the running is being made by urban local authorities. Westminster City Council allows free parking for electric cars on its meters, although with only a few dozen electric vehicles in the capital, the gesture is an empty if well meaning one. In Ipswich the local authority has bought two Danish electric passenger vehicles, which are used as

pool vehicles for council staff. Even the police are in the act, with the Hampshire force using an Eco-Star electric van.

Mr Roden believes that the lack of support for electric vehicles from Whitehall is one of the biggest single factors holding back more widespread use. "It would be nice if ministers instructed each department to buy half a dozen electric vehicles to set an example," he said. "The fact that the Department of the Environment does not own one is scandalous."

With urban pollution shooting higher up the political agenda with each smog-bound summer, the electric vehicle is looking increasingly like an idea whose time has come. A recent report predicted that there could be one million electric vehicles on the world's roads by the end of the century. In California the authorities have ordered that 2 per cent of all vehicles sold by 1998 should produce zero emissions, rising to 10 per cent by 2003.

It now remains to be seen whether the British motoring public can come to terms with a virtually silent, fume-free car that never needs to fill up at a petrol station. No more free wine glasses but great in an oil crisis.



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Lord Montagu of Beaulieu looks at the magnificent Mini, an icon of the Sixties and still in production

Little giant that conquered the world

The Mini and the Sixties were made for each other. Announced four months before the decade began, the car came to symbolise the radicalism and fun associated with the Sixties. In its engineering and appearance the Mini took no account of established traditions, and neither did many of its owners. It has survived for the past 35 years and uniquely gave a name to an enduring women's fashion.

The Mini was the brainchild of Alec Issigonis, although the impetus to produce it came from Leonard Lord, head of the British Motor Corporation, which had been formed in 1952 from the fusion of Austin and Morris. Issigonis had worked for Morris since the Thirties and was responsible for the advanced Morris Minor of 1948. In 1956 Lord invited him back to BMC. The fuel crisis occasioned by the closure of the Suez Canal was at its height, and the response of the car world was a rash of bubble cars, mostly with three wheels and tiny two-stroke engines.

Lord had no time for these. "God damn these bloody awful bubble cars," he said. "We must drive them out of the streets by designing a proper miniature car."

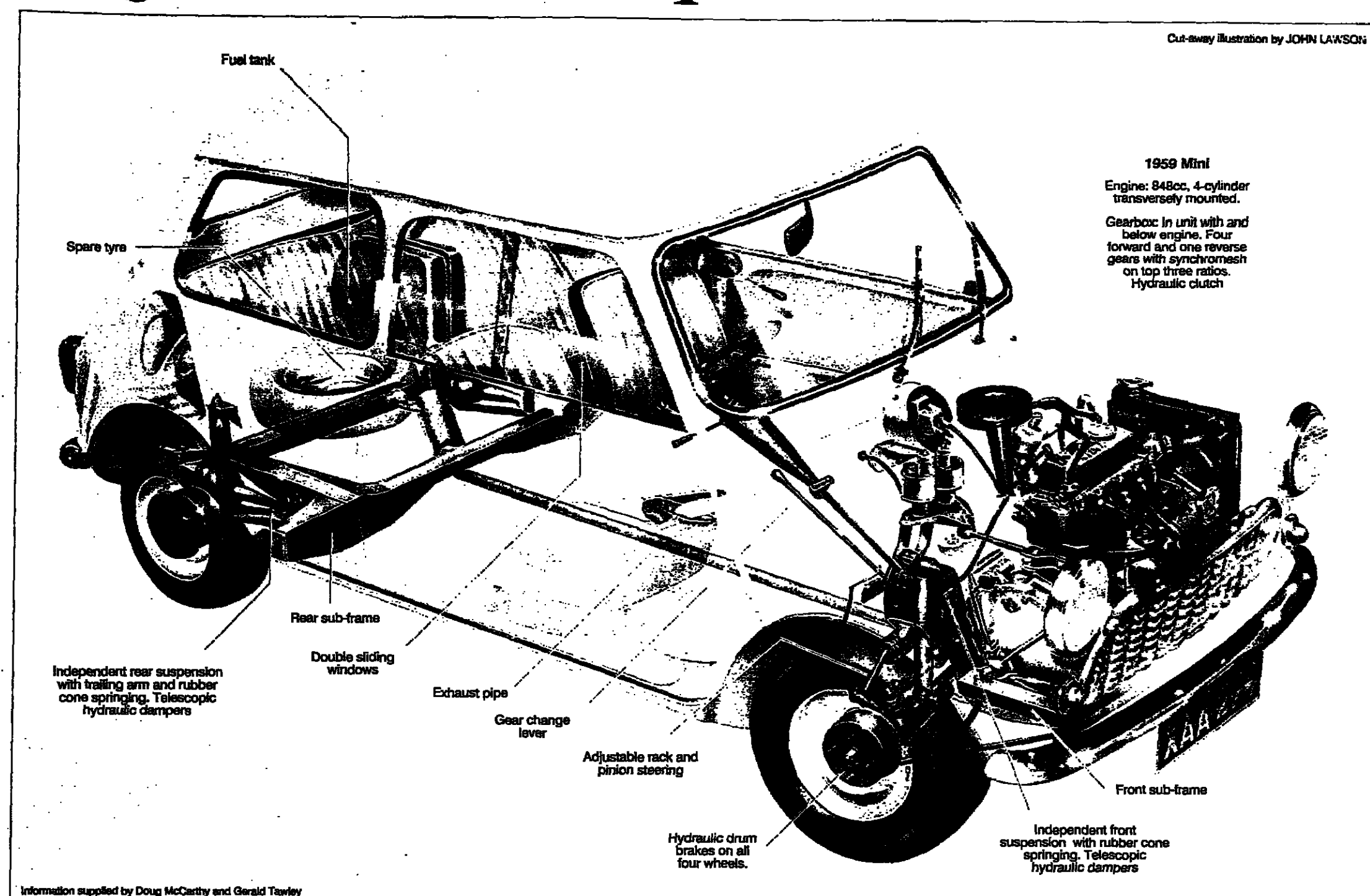
His brief to Issigonis was the maximum interior space combined with the minimum external size. It was a challenge which Issigonis relished, because he thought that a large car did not stretch a designer's abilities.

He had wanted to use front wheel drive in the Morris Minor, but cost and time were against him. Now he was able to do it in the Mini, combined with a transverse engine, which was mounted directly above the gearbox. This engine and gearbox "shared" the same bathwater of a common oil supply, which alarmed some critics at first, but did not prove a problem in the long run. Only the engine—BMC's well-tried A-type of 848cc—was not new. Suspension was by a radical all-independent system of rubber springs designed by Alex Moulton of bicycle fame, and the wheels had a tiny diameter of 10in.

The body was a two-door, four-seater saloon, at first lacking frills such as wind-up windows. Issigonis managed to accommodate four passengers in an overall car length of just 10ft. This has never been improved on since, apart from some French microcars which were just the sort of car that Lord abhorred.

The car was launched in August 1959 under two names, Austin Seven and Mini Minor. The Seven name was dropped in 1962, and the Austin version became the Mini, while the Morris Mini Minor name lasted until 1969.

With a top speed of 72mph and remarkable "chuckable" handling, the little cars achieved instant popularity. The Mini was ideal for competitions except that it needed more power. This was provided by tuning firms such as Speedwell and Downton, but the most famous was John Cooper, whose Mini Cooper tuning was done at the factory; Cooper receiving a £2 royalty for every car delivered. The first Mini Cooper of 1961 had a



Information supplied by Doug McCarthy and Gerald Tawley

997cc engine giving 55bhp, followed by the 70bhp, 1071cc Cooper S and the 76bhp, 1275 Cooper S. Works cars gave more than 100bhp from 1275cc. During the Sixties the Mini Cooper gained Dunlop SP4 radial tyres and Hydrolastic suspension, the latter being standardised on all Minis at the same time. Among count-

less rally victories for the Coopers were the Monte Carlo in 1964, 1965 and 1967, the Finnish Thousand Lakes in 1965, 1966 and 1967, and the first three places in 1965's Rally Championship, the first time a British car had won it. Mini Coopers were also active in racing and rallycross. About 150,000 Mini Coopers

were made up to 1969, and the idea was revived by Cooper in 1991 when he offered a performance kit which could be fitted by Cooper Garages or a Rover dealer. In December 1994 a special Mini Cooper Grand Prix was announced by John Cooper Garages, to celebrate the 35th birthday of the Mini and of Cooper racing

cars winning the Formula One Constructors' Championship. Only 35, featuring a new fuel injection management system and power up to 88bhp, were made. This month sees a new edition of the Cooper S. BMC soon realised that there was room for variations on the Mini theme; first estate and van versions, followed in

1961 by Riley and Wolseley-badged Minis called Elf and Hornet. These had "traditional" radiator grilles and extended boots, with extra wood veneer in the cabin. In 1964, came the Jeep-like Moke. Though BMC dropped the Moke in 1968, a Portuguese-built version can still be bought. The Clubman, with a longer nose incorporating a higher grille, was one attempt to update the Mini's appearance. But it was not popular.

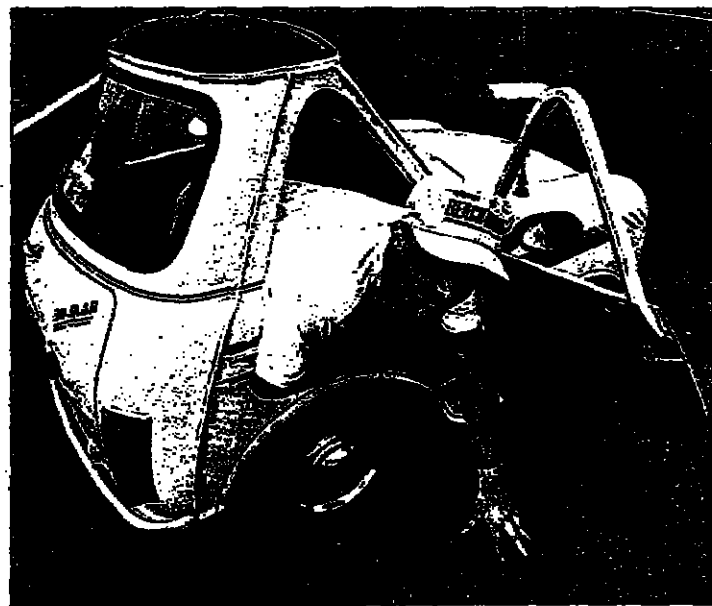
The Mini has been the basis for countless specials, including stretched versions with four doors, pick-ups with six wheels, and the amazing Twiny-Mini with an engine at each end. In the Sixties, customisers who had previously worked largely on Rolls-Royces, such as Harold Radford, produced Minis with cane-work body panels for Peter Sellers and a hatchback version for his wife, Britt Ekland. Pampered customers could have cocktail bars, television, air-conditioning system, electrically operated tinted windows and hand-sewn leather seats. These extras could add £20,000 to the basic price of £750.

At least 33 makes of car have used the Mini engine and transmission. Some of these, like the Mini-Marcos and its successor the Midas, have been made in reasonable numbers, while others, such

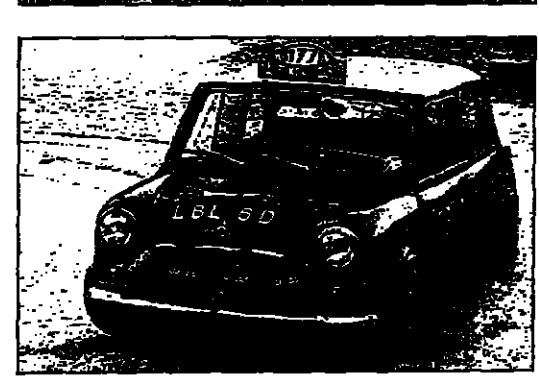
as the ABI three-wheeler with the transverse engine exposed like that of a pre-war Morgan, were more ephemeral. At least three Mini-based makes appeared in Australia, while the innocent factory in Italy built its own versions of the Mini, including Coopers in large numbers from 1965 to 1982.

Now in its 37th year of

production, with more than 5.3 million built, the Mini has survived all the upheavals of its maker, from BMC to British Leyland to privatisation and now to ownership by BMW, the Munich carmaker. It still sells, despite the presence of much more sophisticated "super-minis", and has several years' life left.



From the weird to the wonderful. Above: Geek Vullings from Holland in "the smallest Mini" at the car's 30th birthday party at Silverstone. Above right: A custom-built cabriolet given to the Princess of Wales by her husband as a 21st birthday present. Right: Rauno Aaltonen in the 1967 Monte Carlo Rally winner



My taxi crashed... 'Can you call me another?' I said

Anna Maxted meets a comic who has a minder to keep him on time

Lee Evans, the frenetic rubber-faced comedian, has spent most of this year rushing around Australia and Britain. His first television series, *The World of Lee Evans*, is showing, his new video is out later this month and he stars in a feature film, *Funny Bones*, due for UK release in September. This 30-year-old ex-boxer is renowned as a delectable chap with one fault: he has no concept of time. So Channel 4 insists that he has a chauffeur.

How did you learn to drive? In my mate Wayne's car; he'd just got a car for 60 quid. It was a red Ford Cortina, and I drove it without a licence or a provisional for a couple of weeks. Fortunately, we had no crashes. I passed my test the second time. The first time I upset the instructor because he bashed his head against the

window when I did an emergency stop. He said: "Fail! Fail!"

What was your first car?

A Ford Escort — the old rounded type. It was stolen three times. Each time they stole it they nicked the radio and we found the car abandoned. It was knackered but it kept going.

What car do you drive now and why?

A Renault 5. Nee-ooow! It's blue and black. No stripes. But for work I have to have a chauffeur-driven car. This bloke has been assigned to me to get me to places on time. If I'm not ready, he goes "MOVE!" He's a big guy called Fred [Lee gestures towards a huge man near by] and when he says "MOVE!" you go.

Do you enjoy driving?

Not long distances. I used to have an old Allegro and I got



Lee Evans with Fred Woolcott, his time-conscious chauffeur

to hate driving because it was traffic jam, road, traffic jam, road. They're building an extra four lanes on the M25, aren't they? One day you'll go on the M25 and there'll be a load of badgers and rabbits with hard hats building a big stretch of countryside.

What is your dream car?

A small one. I reckon everyone should have a pogo stick, and get around that way. The

police could have ones with white stripes and a blue light. What is your most hated car? I'm not passionately hateful about cars. I don't go around saying: "You've got an Allegro — urrrgh!"

What's your worst habit in the car?

Fiddling with tapes while I'm driving and fiddling with the radio. And I've no sense of direction. I argue with the

person who has the map. I'm always right, when in fact I'm always wrong.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When humans revert to a Stone Age mentality because they're surrounded by a wall of steel. When there's a gap in the traffic and they won't let you in. And when I see litter flying out of car windows. I hate that. And when you go to a service station and there's a big lorry driver washing in the sink like an elephant at a watering hole.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I was in a taxi and I was very late. I said: "You must get me to the airport." He goes, "Right-ho guy." He was going very slow. I was going: "Faster, faster!" He said, "I can't go any faster." I was going: "Please, please, or I'll be letting all these people down." Then he went off the road and the car turned over. He broke his arm. He got out of the taxi and I said: "Could you get me another taxi?" He did, but I missed the plane. I made sure he got an ambulance, though.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Yeah. For a crash. Someone stopped their car at a roundabout and I wasn't looking and hit them up the backside.

What do you listen to in the car?

Everything. I go through all the stations. Jazz, blues, a bit of pop. Mostly I listen to Radio 4. Brilliant station. I love the radio. If you're travelling home at 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning there are some really interesting programmes.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Invest in rail. And not build any more roads. We've all got to get about but they're making too many cars. One day the open road will be your driveway. You'll come out of your house to go to work and you'll be in a traffic jam.

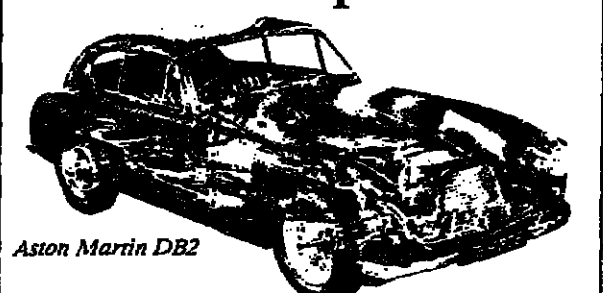
What is your favourite car ad? The one where the guy falls off a building in... I think it's for Volkswagen. The car nearly hits the ground but stops. Fantastic! How did they do that? They must really have done it! Brilliant.

READERS' CLASSIC

MORE THAN 200 readers entered our contest to nominate one more classic to add to Lord Montagu's list of historic British cars. We are still judging your entries. On July 8 we will feature the car chosen by the winner of our prize, a luxury weekend at Chewton Glen Hotel in the New Forest and a tour of the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu.

THE TIMES

Historic car print offer



Aston Martin DB2

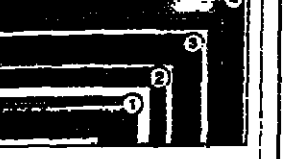
Readers may buy prints of John Lawson's cut-away illustrations of the Aston Martin DB2, and the Austin Mini also pictured on this page.

The prints are available in two forms:

- Unframed, 297mm by 420mm, on 130gm paper. Price £3.99 including VAT and carriage.
- A limited edition of 250 prints signed by Lawson and Lord Montagu, on 170gm paper, 297mm by 420mm plus a 6cm border and in a choice of four frames. Price £29.99 including VAT and carriage. For queries, phone 0843-602717.

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4. An ultra-soft contemporary dark wood frame with gold inner.



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	Qty	Price	Qty	Price
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Aston Mini	@ £29.99			

I enclose a cheque for a total of £____ payable to Times Newspapers Ltd or debit my Access/ Visa No: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry: _____

Send completed form and remittance to: Times Historic Cars Print Offer, PO Box 46, Broadstairs, Kent, CT11 1UD. Allow 28 days for delivery.

£2 OFF CAR SHOW AT BEAULIEU

An exhibition of all 12 cars featured by Lord Montagu and sponsored by Car 95 is running until the end of September at the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Present this panel at the gate and one adult will get a £2 reduction on the full admission price.

مكتبة المجلد

HOW IT WORKS

Hitchhiker's guide to the 24-hours

It may be the most expensive road car in the world, retailing at more than £1 million, but in race trim the McLaren F1 is not meant for more than one person. As a special favour, however, I had been squeezed into an alcove behind Blundell's left shoulder, during a break in testing at the Pembrey circuit in south Wales, my helmeted head wedged fast between the roll bar and some other unidentified piece of metal.

rising into the periphery of my view, fighting the wheel. It did the trick. My head had been jerked free.

Partnering Derek Warwick and Yannick Dalmas, Burdell won Le Mans for Peugeot in 1991. He knows what he is doing in a sports car and, of course, he did not put a foot wrong. The car exploded into life in the pits, its V12 engine, which produces 636bhp, howling in anticipation before the car hurtled down the Park Straight.

The acceleration and the braking took my breath away. On the first flying lap, we hit 150mph on the straight, then when it seemed too late to brake for a hairpin bend, he hit the pedal, his left hand

We did three more laps like this, accelerating and braking so fast that my stomach did not know whether to jump

through the windscreen or rush out in a panic through my back, using the kerbs to get maximum momentum, seeing the track flying past as my helmet shook and then those hands again shaking on the wheel. When we pulled back to the pits, the crew reported that Blundell had set his quickest time of the day, 58.2 seconds, on the penultimate lap.

He will partner Ray Bellm and Maurizio Sala at Le Mans. His team mates have already had a string of successes in endurance races this

season but there are worries about the reliability of the McLaren F1 over 24 hours and about its comparative lack of straight-line speed. At about 190mph, it drags behind some of its main competitors.

There is a strong field at Le Mans this year, too. Mario Andretti, driving a Porsche for the French Courage team, will be trying to become the second man since Graham Hill to win a Formula One world championship, the Indianapolis 500 and the 24-hour race. Derek Bell will be attempting to equal Jacky Ickx's record six wins and several grand prix drivers are

Blundell, who is 29, began the season with Le Mans as his only real target. But after the trials and tribulations that befell Mansell, he has also driven four times for

McLaren-Mercedes in Formula One and performed well enough to deserve to be given the drive for the rest of the year. But he still counts his win at Le Mans in the Peugeot four years ago as the pinnacle of his career. "Le Mans is something special," he says. "You are there for a week, so you build up a rapport with the rest of the team. You are driving with

Each driver will race in stints of about two hours before they hand over to the next man. Winning the race is

Bundell says: "Every driver in the team has to be careful not to go out there and try to do sensational lap times. That is difficult for a racing driver to do. You have to tell the others if they are being excessive with the brakes, too hard with the gearbox or kerbing it too much.

"You have worked hard all that week and you do not want it all to be thrown away by someone else. At the same time, you do not want to be the one who messes it up for the other two."

The McLaren F1 weighs

"You are full of adrenalin, anyway, and there is no time to sleep," he says. "If you're going to drive properly, your body has to take on food and liquid regularly."

"You cannot wake from a deep sleep then get in a car and drive it at 200mph. You have got to be prepared for something like that."

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Claire Evans on the end of a long adventure that turned into a testing voyage of self-discovery

Under pressure in the jungle

The thing about the Camel Trophy is the sting in the tail. The 20 national teams had successfully completed their 1,700km exploration of El Ruta del Maya and arrived in Xunantunich. But 30 hours of non-stop tasks lay ahead of them and for many these last two days turned out to be the most gruelling.

The heat was not as stifling as it had been at the start at Lamani, but many competitors had been weakened by dysentery during the convoy and were no longer at the peak of fitness. By the end of the first 24 hours, many wondered where they would find the strength to finish the special tasks.

Of the special tasks, the most impressive was the finale on the Mopan River. Competitors were split into two groups of 20 racing to haul a Land Rover Discovery from one side of the river to the other, first across fast-flowing rapids, then through water 12ft deep and finally on to the riverbank. No winching was allowed, so the task was carried out using a tow rope and brute force.

Despite fierce rivalry between teams, the camaraderie that had built up between them over the past weeks proved stronger. Instead of pushing their car over the finish line alone, the winners stopped and helped the runners-up to drag their vehicles to the same point so that both crossed the line simultaneously.

Finally, the torture was over. Team members collapsed sodden and exhausted on the riverbank. Meanwhile, an evening banquet and awards ceremony was being prepared on the plaza in front of El Castillo, Belize's 10m-high Mayan pyramid.

The competition results were announced. Victory on the special tasks and overall went to the first team ever to represent the Czech Republic. Zdenek Nemecek and his teammate Marek Rocojdi were overjoyed with their win, but were too exhausted to celebrate for long. "I've never been so tired in all my life," said Nemecek, a 33-year-old mechanical engineer. The other equally coveted award, for team spirit, was won by a Russian duo - Pavel Bogomolov, a casino owner, and Sergei Fenev, a local administrator. This is the trophy voted on by all the team members and is awarded for capability, friendliness and sense of humour when under pressure. The British team came a creditable 12th.



One of the special tasks, competitors were split into two groups to haul a Land Rover Discovery from one side of the River Mopan to the other, first across fast-flowing rapids, then through water 12ft deep

Though Mike Oxley and Rob Connor had gone to Central America determined to win, they were relieved just to have finished the event.

Camel Trophy is neither a race nor a rally but touches on both elements. Competitors befit and capable of acquiring advanced off-road driving and vehicle maintenance skills, and must also learn to work as a team with the members of other nationalities against whom they compete. Almost every support driver in the event was a past competitor. Even the event director, Iain Chapman, who plans each year's expedition, also started as a UK team member in the

1987 Madagascar adventure.

While the team members will arrive home triumphant, the unsung heroes of Camel Trophy are Land Rover's four mechanics, who were permanently on call to repair vehicles. The main problem with the Land Rovers was that nuts and bolts on suspension, prop shafts and wheels shook so much on the rubble-strewn tracks in just 12 hours that they could fall off and cause an accident if not checked and tightened regularly. Thanks to reminders

from the Land Rover team and checks on the vehicles, there were no accidents.

Three medical staff, led by Dr Mike Irani, looked after the teams. During the three and a half weeks, they treated countless bouts of heat exhaustion, dehydration, spider bites and stitched a gash on the shin of one participant who had ripped his leg open on a feral rock.

During its 16-year history, the Camel Trophy has evolved into a more rounded event. This year was the first time it took on the theme of an ancient civilisation and joined in archaeological work to uncover new Mayan temples. However, as in past years it has also been a journey of self-discovery for the participants. Mundo Maya was the most ambitious and probably the toughest 4x4 adventure so far, but it won't be the last. At the closing ceremony, Chapman announced details of next year's expedition: a coast-to-coast crossing of Kalimantan, a jungle island in Indonesia.

● To apply for the chance to take part next year, write to Camel Trophy 1996, PO Box 124, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4LL



Paying by numbers

Q I've ordered a new car for delivery on August 1 when the N registration letter starts but I would like to have a personalised number plate. How do I get one?

A For all the N51DE information, phone 0181-200 6565 from 8am on Monday. You can reserve numbers like that one and have the dealer put them on your car. But be N1 PPY. The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency issues numbers on a first-come-first-served basis - and the switchboard is preparing for a heavy load.

Q But aren't these numbers dreadfully expensive?

A There is no need to pay N5ANE prices. It depends what number you are after. Those on sale through the above telephone line range in price from £229 to £2,999 and upwards. It is a bit like dealing in new shares; the prices are fixed according to demand.

Q So what would I get for my money?

A Byron Roberts, marketing manager for the DVLA's "sale of marks" section, says that the more unusual your initials, the more likely you are to find a bargain. N 444 XYV would cost you £229, but N1 BOB would set you back £2,999.

Q I thought the most sought-after numbers were auctioned off?

A Quite right. Mr Roberts is just back from an auction in Harrogate which raised £20.7 million. Someone paid £20,000 for N1 SHA (Nisha is a popular name for Asian women). The only way to discover if your preferred number is on the auction list is to phone tomorrow.

Q Do I have to pay a transfer fee if I buy one of these numbers?

A There is an £80 cherished number transfer fee, but if you are N1 FTY and buy direct from the DVLA it is included in the price.

Q Who gets all the money out of this business?

A The tax man, of course. Since official sales of cherished numbers began in 1989 they have raised £170

DR DASHBOARD

million for the exchequer. But you have to admit it is more fun than writing a cheque to the N1 AND Revenue.

Q So can I get a N1 CER number for my treasured vintage car?

A Afraid not. The rules say you can't use a number that makes a car look younger than it really is. You can,

however, buy a JOLLY old number for your new car.

Q How do I do that?

A The DVLA has announced that some numbers with the prefix letters A, H, J, K, L and M are still available and are usually cheaper than N registrations. If they do not include your favourite, go to one of the many dealers in cherished numbers - but that might cost L.O.A.D.S. of money.

Alan Copps on the national contest to find the best company car driver

Pace hots up in the heats

Steve Howe came third in last year's final of The Times Lease Plan competition to find the Company Car Driver of the Year. But after winning this week's heat of the 1995 contest in Nottingham on Wednesday he confessed that he still had a lot to learn.

The hardest part was the classroom test, a combination of Highway Code questions and tricky situations illustrated by colour slides. "They really put you through it," said Steve. "You don't know what they are going to throw at you next. The test goes into much greater depth than the Highway Code does."

They are the examiners from Drive Tech, one of Britain's largest driver-training specialists. Drawn mainly from the ranks of former police driving instructors, they are dedicated to improving the standards of company car drivers and to erasing that old image of the tired rep who drives too far, too fast and with little care for other road users. Howe, 29, of Stoney Stanton, Leicestershire, covers thousands of miles a month in his job as a systems engineer for Bleasdale Computers, based in Lutterworth, Leicestershire, and he knows how wrong that view is.

"I'm really keen to prove that high-mileage drivers are not bad drivers," he said. To emphasise how seriously the Bleasdale company takes its driving, his colleague, Dave Lowden, ran him a very close second in many of the sections of the test. Third was Martin Pearson from Norking Aluminium in Doncaster, and fourth was the remaining member of the Bleasdale team, David Smith.



Steve Howe, third in last year's Lease Plan final and the winner of this week's heat

Mr Howe, used to driving a Vauxhall Astra GSi, made a happy transition to the latest Nissan Primera, which is being used by all entrants in the competition. He was especially impressed with its road-holding during the 40-minute drive in which his traffic skills were assessed, as he gave a running commentary on his route, concentrating on the potential hazards on and beside the road.

The £15,000, 2-litre, Primera SLX has an enviable reputation as one of the best cars in its sector, combining comfort for long-distance driving with performance to get round hold-ups. Chris Howell, Drive Tech's founder, believes that the high standard in the competition so far demonstrates that drivers improve when they are enjoying themselves.

The accent in the contest is on the pleasure of driving as well as on the skills and alertness required by the pro-



fessional. Also included in the competition is a manoeuvring test through a pattern of cones, garages and parking bays. For this the car has a bowl mounted on the bonnet with a ball placed in it. Any excess of speed or braking power sees the ball bouncing across the track losing points as it goes. "By making the public aware that there are such competitions it enables people to realise that high mileage drivers still have to get to their appointments safely through ever increasing traffic. If you

set out nice and early it should be no problem," Howe said. His prize for winning the heat is a Lease Plan jacket and a bottle of champagne.

He joins David Gaskell, an industrial engineer with Pirelli Cables, who won the first heat in Oxford, to go through to the final at Silverstone in August. Another four heats are to be held in the next month to complete the selection of finalists who will face a rigorous examination both on and off the British Grand Prix circuit.

The winner of each regional heat goes through to the final together with the six other highest-scoring drivers.

For the eventual winner, there is the prospect of a two-week, all-expenses-paid European touring holiday for two in a car provided by Nissan, and £500 in spending money.

Mr Steven Norris, road safety minister will present the prize at a dinner after the Silverstone final.

Raring to go

A SALE of some outstanding vehicles by Brooks will be one of the features of the Goodwood Festival of Speed next weekend. They include a 1964 Formula One BRM driven by Graham Hill. Whoever finds the estimated £160,000 - £180,000 for the car could try it in competition immediately - it has been entered for the hillclimb event the following day.

● Goodwood details: 01243 787766

Mobility matters

THE Mobility Roadshow, the world's largest motor show for the disabled, is at the Transport Research Laboratory from July 14 - 16. After opening the show, the Queen will present the 500,000th vehicle provided for a disabled person by Motability.

● Further details: 01344 770463

Hearty exercise

A TEAM from The Times and CAR 95 will be taking part in the British Heart Foundation's annual London - Brighton bicycle ride tomorrow. They will be using a number of bicycles supplied by carmakers. The result of this two-wheel test will appear next week.

Classic run

THERE are still entries available for the four-day Euro Classic run organised by the RAC's Motor Sports Association from September 9 - 12. The run follows a 700-mile non-competitive route from Kent to the Magny Cours French Grand Prix circuit near Nevers, France. It is open to cars made between 1905 and 1975 and other pre-1976 vehicles of special interest.

● Further information details: 01753 681736

THE TIMES

Win a Rover 400 Tourer

The Times, in association with Rover Group, is offering readers a chance to win a turbo diesel version of the sporty Rover Tourer worth £15,995.

And to help you get the most from your outdoor trips, we have teamed up with HI-TEC Sports to give away some of the latest walking boots and sandals to 25 further winners - ten pairs of Kings Peak II, ten pairs of Lady Kings Peak II and five pairs of Whitewater sandals.

For your chance to win simply attach six of the tokens printed to the application form below. You may send in as many entries as you wish, but each must be on an official form, accompanied by six tokens. Send to: The Times Tourer Competition, 11 Whitefriars Street, London EC8 3NG. The competition closes on June 24.

For further information on the Tourer call 0345 186 186.



TOKEN 19

OFFICIAL APPLICATION FORM

I enclose six tokens from The Times and wish to enter the draw.

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DATE PURCHASED MONTH YEAR

IS THE CAR PRIVATELY OWNED? COMPANY

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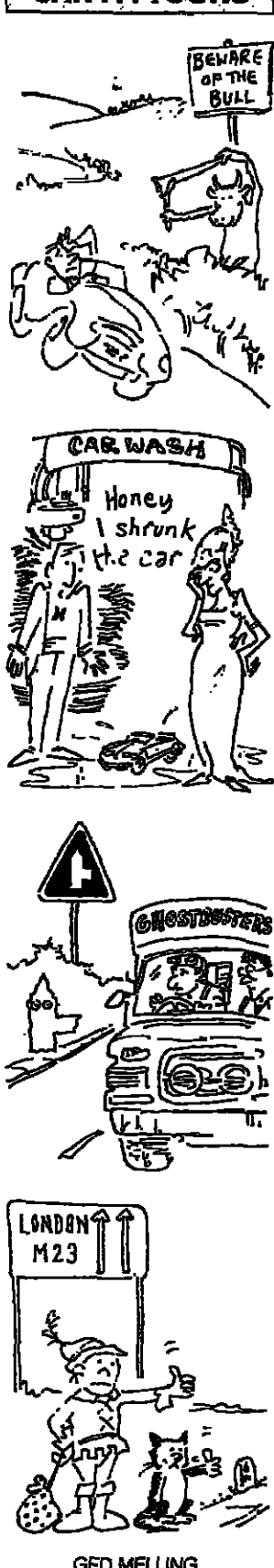
Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further mailings from The Times or Rover Group

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CAR...TOONS



Why should collecting a new car from a dealer cost so much? Vaughan Freeman investigates

Charge that delivers a shock

Manufacturers are under attack for "ripping off" customers by levying exorbitant delivery charges, on average, £450 for every car sold.

Critics say the charges have little or nothing to do with the cost of bringing a car from factory to forecourt and called this week for them to be scrapped. Last year Britain's million or so private new-car buyers paid between £300 million and £400 million in these charges alone.

Fleet Management Services (FMS) calculates that delivery charges have risen twice as fast as the price of new cars, an increase of almost 31 per cent in the past three years, while new car prices have increased by 15 per cent.

Tony Coles, FMS operations director, said: "No other manufacturers charge the customer separately for the delivery of a product. You do not have a delivery charge for washing machines which are imported from Italy, or for computers shipped in from Japan."

"Motorists are paying through the nose for rocketing delivery charges, which are not revealed on the price list. If the manufacturers can offer items such as a 'free' sunroof, electric windows and stereo, it would be relatively simple to include 'free' delivery."

"There can be no justification for these delivery charges, which are exclusive to the automotive industry."

Andrew Wilkinson of industry analysts CAP Motor Research, claimed that delivery charges are rising at the rate of £1 a week.

Mr Wilkinson said the delivery charges have nothing to do with how far the car is transported: "It is more or less a technique used by the manufacturers to hike car prices without appearing to do so. The time has come either to scrap such charges or to contain and include them in the sticker price of the cars so that everybody, not least the customer, knows exactly where

they stand. Imagine the uproar if high street shops announced that on top of the retail list price for their video recorders and television sets, customers would also have to pay a £25 delivery charge."

FMS reports that in recent years, delivery charges have become increasingly uniform, regardless of whether the car is built in Britain, France, Germany, America or Japan. In 1992, delivery charges ranged from £246 to £400, a 63 per cent differential, while today most charge a range between £400 and £485, only 21 per cent apart.

A look at the delivery

charges levied illustrates the apparent discrepancies. A Ford buyer living in Essex will pay the same £445 delivery charge whether the car is a £26,000 Scorpio from Germany, a £17,000 Probe from America, or a £7,500 Fiesta built in Dagenham, Essex. A Nissan built in Tyne & Wear costs the same £445 to deliver as a Nissan from Japan, and Peugeot charges £420 whether the car comes from France or from Coventry.

The manufacturers say the delivery charge covers adminis-

tration, and the cost of transporting cars from all over the world. It is an average cost,

they say, which reflects the different expenses of delivering different cars from different factories.

A Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders official said: "The trouble is that the delivery charge is perceived solely as the cost of putting a car on a transporter and delivering it to a showroom. But it covers much more. If it is an imported vehicle it will cover the cost of transport over a longer delivery distance, paperwork, preparing the car and taking off the wax used to protect them in transit."

Alan Pulham of the National Franchised Dealers Association said manufacturers imposed the delivery charge and dealers took between 5 and 15 per cent of it. "The charge is part of the manufacturer's pricing equation. It has the benefit of being completely transparent; people know what they are paying for."

As for the argument that cars built in Britain should cost less to deliver than imported cars, he said: "Imports such as Ford price the delivery charge from the point of landing. That is honest."

USED CAR BRIEF

ROVER 200/400

Rovers 200 hatch-back and the 400 four-door versions were built in 1992 with former partners Honda and the risk of engine failure, reliability did much to revive the Rover reputation. The 200 is a three-door hatch-back with 1.6-litre 100bhp engine, 1.8-litre 115bhp engine, and 1.8-litre Honda-engineered GSI. The 400 is a four-door sedan with 1.6-litre 100bhp engine, 1.8-litre 115bhp engine, and 1.8-litre Honda-engineered GSI. The 400 is a four-door sedan with 1.6-litre 100bhp engine, 1.8-litre 115bhp engine, and 1.8-litre Honda-engineered GSI.

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Overall width 1600

Overall height 1400

Tony Dawe explores the monuments, caves and sites of West Wessex

The wild side of the stones tour

The mid-west of England might lack the breathtaking, wide-open spaces of its American counterpart, but it probably contains a greater range of attractions than any other region in the country: cathedrals, caves, a prehistoric temple and a wildlife park.

This tour through Wiltshire, Somerset and a corner of Dorset — West Wessex to give the region its ancient name — includes them all while avoiding the main tourist routes.

It starts in Salisbury, where the elegant cathedral is set in the biggest close in the country, with buildings dating from the 15th century.

The route out of the city takes you further back in time, to Old Sarum, the original settlement where the foundations of a Norman cathedral and castle lie within an Iron Age fort, and then to Woodhenge and Stonehenge.

Woodhenge had six concentric rings of timber posts surrounded by a ditch and was a Neolithic precursor to Stonehenge, where druids will gather at first light on Wednesday morning to celebrate the summer solstice. The exact significance of the first rays of the rising sun striking the altar stone remains a mystery, but that is part of the attraction of this most famous prehistoric monument with its 20ft high, 26-ton stones.

The road to Warminster crosses the edge of Salisbury Plain and a detour leads to Longleat, the Marquis of



Stonehenge: druids and others still gather here to celebrate the summer solstice

Bath's stately home cum fun park. The best way to see it is to follow the signs along country lanes to the wildlife park. You will suddenly find yourself among giraffes, and can leave the car to admire them before climbing back inside and shutting all the

windows as you enter enclosures with monkeys, lions and leopards. The big cats look menacing but seldom are, whereas monkeys are expert at dismantling aerials and windscreens wipers. The road winds down through the park to the ground house.

Our tour moves on to Frome, a market town with steep, narrow streets, then to Wells, the smallest city in England, with a wonderful cathedral. Its west front, with 293 sculptures, is matched by the marvels inside. From the cathedral to caves,

as the route heads for Wookey Hole, which can be explored on a guided tour with spectacular lighting, and Cheddar, its rugged gorge leading down to two magnificent show caves which are not unlike cathedrals themselves.

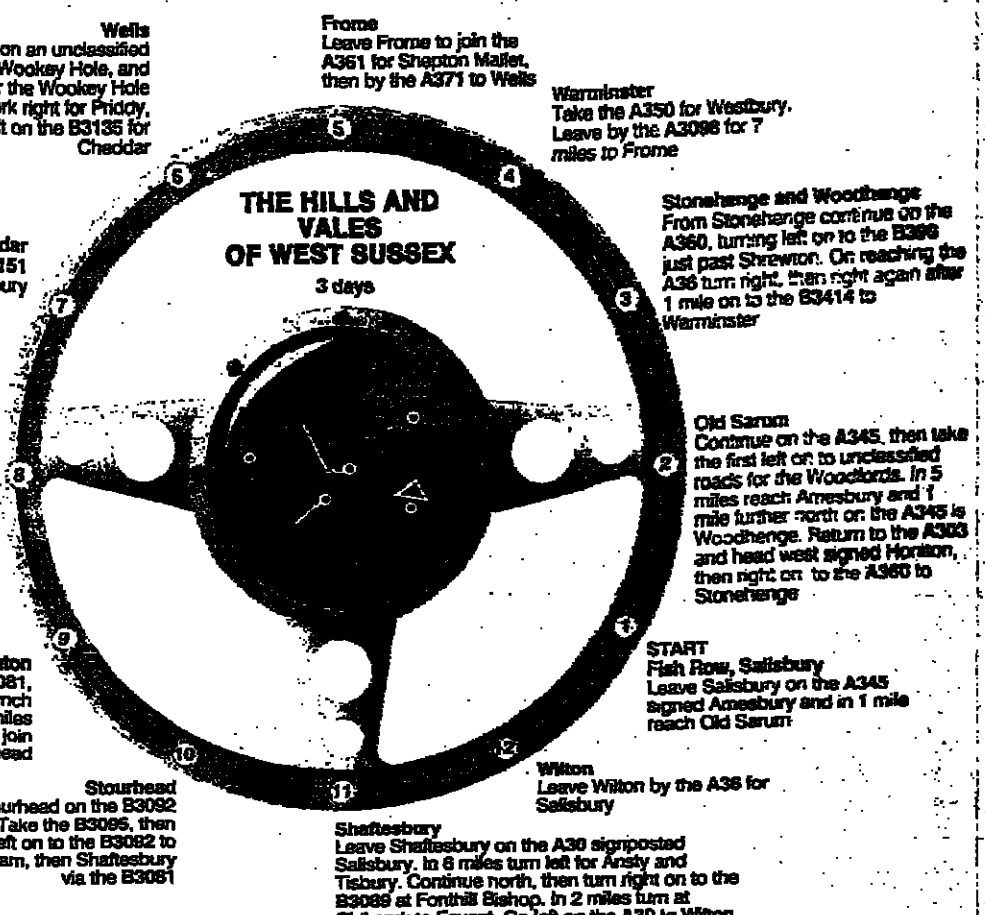
A contrasting series of hill-

top features marks the next sector of the route. The chapel on Glastonbury Tor dates from AD 179 and is thought to be the site of Avalon, King Arthur's final resting place. The small tower on the hill outside Bruton is, in fact, the dove-cote of a former abbey. At

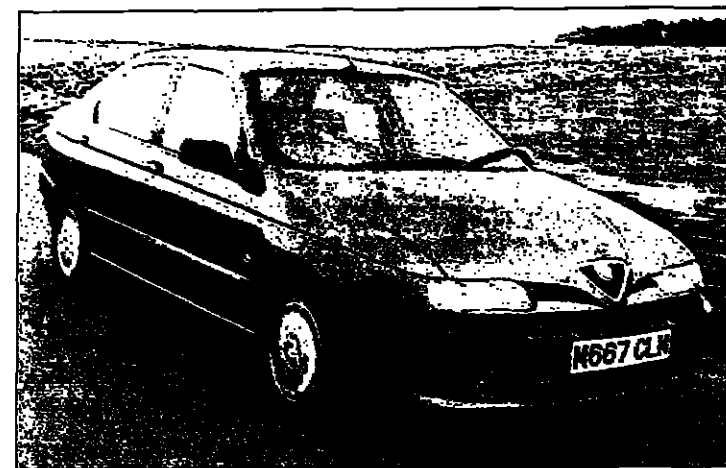
Stourhead, the temple above the lake is one of several follies in a splendid garden. We next travel on to Dorset to include Shaftesbury, 700ft high, with a steep lane of thatched cottages called Gold Hill, which must appear on more Old England calen-

dars than any other street, and on to Wilton House, remodelled by Inigo Jones in the 17th century and containing a world-famous collection of paintings. Based on AA Tour Guide Britain, £9.99 from AA shops and bookellers.

CAR 95 ROUND BRITAIN TOURS



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Alfa Romeo 146: moderately swift, but the ride is hard

ALFA ROMEO 146

Engine: 1596cc/1712cc
Transmission: five-speed manual
Performance: 116mph (0 to 62mph in 11.5 seconds)/120mph (0 to 62mph in 10.2 seconds)
Fuel consumption: 27.1mpg/26.1mpg
Price: £11,695 to £13,655
Insurance group: details not available

THE MAJOR problem for the new Alfa Romeo 146 is that it is grouped in a market sector known as the C-segment, along with everyday cars such as the Ford Escort, Vauxhall Astra, Rover 200, VW Golf and Renault 19. These models accounted for 32 per cent of car sales last year, but the sector is one in which buyers opt for the familiar, so Alfa Romeo does not expect the 146 to gain more than 0.5 per cent of that market (fewer than 3,000 sales a year). This is a pity because Alfa Romeo has set out to broaden its narrow appeal: the practicality, comfort

and aggressive pricing of the marque have been considered, as well as performance, handling and style, for which Alfa is traditionally renowned. Alfa went to the extent of redesigning everything from the A-pillar of the three-door 145 to the back of the car. The original car's slim headlights and beaky nose integrate more naturally with the sleek coupé-like profile and notch-back boot than with the boxy three-door body. Underneath the captivating new body are the same chassis and mechanicals as the 145. There are

three models to choose from, and two delightful engines: a 1.6-litre flat four and a more powerful 1.7-litre 16-valve, both of which make that wonderful roary sound typical of an Alfa Boxer-engine. The 1.6 and 1.7 are moderately swift and enjoy, or rather, require full use of the revs to extract the best performance. It is a shame that the gearchange is so unpleasant to use. Alfa has improved the rubbery feel of early 145s, but the action is still notchy. Another disappointment is the ride. Though forgivable in the sporty three-door 145, a fidgy,

hard ride in a family five-door car such as the 146 is not really acceptable. Practicality and comfort are great improvements over earlier Alfas. Beneath the notchback door is a spacious boot with a useful split-folding rear seat standard across the range, and the driving position is vastly improved. But it is the quality of fit and finish that falls behind the best of the 146's rivals: there were a number of rattle and creaks in the latest test cars.

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WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY JUNE 17 1995

RICHARD MORRISON: BRITAIN'S OCEANS OF INSPIRATION



Only one ritual in my childhood matched the sublime expectation of Christmas Eve. It was always in high summer, and we had driven for hours, five of us, crammed in the Austin. We kids were thirsty, sticky, fractious, tired of watching the caravan that had preceded us down the A23 like a fat headmistress, blocking our race down the corridor to the tuck shop.

Then somebody would squeal: "I can see the sea!" There would inevitably be a prolonged dispute about whether it was sea, sky or smog rising over Brighton. But even in this argument there was fierce joy. Already we could taste the mussels, smell the sickly-

sweet bouquet of candyfloss in the wind. We could hear the scrunch of the shingle shifting under the waves, and feel the salty lash of spray from the short but never-to-be-forgotten ride in a speedboat — one shilling a go, from the pier where ancient fishermen sat glumly in their blue serge sweaters and never spoke or moved.

Today, 50 years after the premiere of the greatest of all "sea" operas, *Peter Grimes*, we celebrate British seas, the British seaside and, particularly, those who have sought to capture maritime glory in their music, art and writing. Their inspiration comes from the infinite diversity of Britain's coasts. I love the pungent Cornish fishing ports, snugly

concealed below their toppling labyrinths of alleys; and the vast, flat horizon of the Norfolk marshes, where a stiff north-easterly, even in midsummer, can cut into the skin like a whetted knife; and the brave Cal-Mac ferry battering towards the saucy quayside of Tobermory on the Isle of Mull; and the weekend armada of bobbing yachts tacking out of the Falmouth Roads; and even the neat chastity of Eastbourne.

Yes, even Eastbourne has an unexpected power to inspire. After all, was it not in this sedate Sussex resort that Debussy finished composing his epic seascape, *La Mer*? I draw the line only at Hove, but I dare say that Hove has its admirers too.

There is nothing unusual in any of this, of course. As a Polish seaman called Joseph Conrad once observed: in England, "men and sea interpenetrate". I don't say that an infatuation with the sea is deep in every British psyche. Benjamin Disraeli famously "never saw the use of the sea", and I fear that there are politicians around today who would, given the necessary clearance from the Almighty, drain the Channel and build a ten-lane motorway from the Lizard to the Hook of Holland, turning the Isle of Wight into a gigantic cash-and-carry warehouse as they pass.

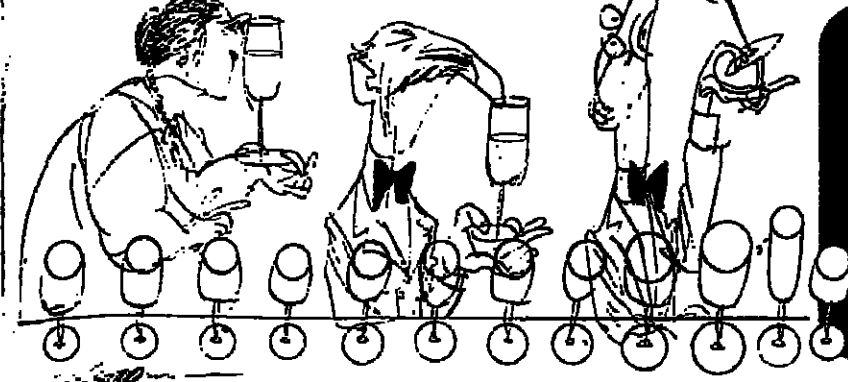
But let us not dwell on such hapless, landlocked creatures. What I have learnt in

the three decades since my boyhood epiphanies on the A23 is this: you don't necessarily have to go to the coast at all to satisfy your sea-lust.

In fact, some would argue that it is actually better not to do so. The amusement arcades are always tackier than you recalled, the piers more wrecked, the fishermen and boarding-house ladies more broke, the Channel even colder to the naked toe. Whereas this seaside-craving thing can often be satisfied perfectly well at second-hand — through the imaginations of composers, writers and painters. For just as the idealised memory of the seaside is

Continued on page 3, col 1

It's the sniff sip, sloosh 'n' slurpathon.



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JAVI 1350

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

STIFFELLO: Two of Verdi's most personal, deeply-felt operas are being performed on successive evenings. Elijah Moshinsky's superb production of *Stiffello*, about a clergyman publicly forgiving his erring wife (a handy tissue is recommended), launches the Royal Opera's Verdi Festival. Powerful performances from Catherine Malfitano, Anthony Michaels-Moore and promising newcomer José Cura, and great conducting by Sir Edward Downes. Don't miss. Royal Opera House, Bow St. London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Tues 20, 7.30pm. [5]

LA TRAVIATA: Welsh National Opera's stunning revival of Verdi's furious attack on polite society's attitude to those who stray from its idea of the straight and narrow. Young Nuccia Focile's first Violetta is sensational, beautifully sung and searingly acted, and she is vibrantly partnered by her real-life husband, Paul Charles Clarke, as Alfredo. Carlo Rizzi is at his brightest in the pit. North Wales Theatre, The Promenade, Llandudno (01492 872000), Wed 21, 7.15pm. [5]

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

TWELFTH NIGHT: Ian Judge's production has been criticised for failing to explore the darker recesses of Shakespeare's *Ilyria*. But, with Emma Fielding as a touching, plucky Viola, Desmond Barrit as a puritan Malvolio with a grim, squashed-cabbage face, and good-humoured laughter everywhere, that seems an ungrateful reaction to a revival enjoyable enough in itself to incite mass demonstrations against the RSC's threatened exit from our London summers.



Desmond Barrit strikes a pose in *Twelfth Night*

Barbican, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (0171-638 8891). Evenings: tonight, Wed 21, Thur 22, 7.15pm; matinees: today, Thur 22, 2pm. Continues in repertoire.

THE KILLING OF SISTER GEORGE: Despite the odd foray into outrageous caricature ("drink my bathwater!"), Frank Marcus's picture of a lesbian marriage on the rocks seems as wise, witty and melancholy a comedy as it did in 1965. That is largely due to Miriam Margulies, who clomps tweedily about in sensible shoes and proves both moving and funny as the butch actress about to be dumped from a Mumsnet radio serial. Ambassadors, West St, London WC2 (0171-836 6111). Evenings: Mon to Fri, 8pm; Sat, 8.30pm; matinees: Thur, 3pm; Sat, 5.30pm.

More theatre, page 6.

FILMS

Geoff Brown

JEFFERSON IN PARIS (12): As expected, Merchant Ivory's film cannot be faulted for period display. Authentic locations, sumptuous costumes and props all set the scene for Thomas Jefferson's five years as ambassador to France in the 1780s. Nick Nolte looks the part, though given James Ivory's usual way with emotions you have to guess at the tumults within that prompt America's future president to flirt with a married woman, cling obsessively to his eldest daughter and father children with one of his slaves. With Greta Scacchi and Thandie Newton. Odeon Leicester Square (01426 915083).

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION (15): Hats off to a film that entertains, never mangles its distinguished source (the play by John Guare), and gives film audiences something to think about. As on stage, Stockard Channing shines in the role of Ouisa, the smart New Yorker who bears the brunt of the upheaval caused by an impostor claiming to be Sidney Pottier's son. Director Fred Schepisi skilfully orchestrates the cut-and-thrust of comedy, pathos and philosophical debate; and if Will Smith's impostor loses some of his mystery, the camera's tour of New York's high and low life provides compensation. With Donald Sutherland. Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323). MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636). Haymarket (0171-



NDT 2, the second company of the Netherlands Dance Theatre, combine inventive choreography and athleticism in two programmes at Sadler's Wells, London (see Dance — below)

839 1527). UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332).

More films, page 6.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

ANDRE PREVIN/CEDAR WALTON: How would Herbert von Karajan have reacted to the news that Deutsche Grammophon was about to venture into jazz? The project is in the capable hands of André Previn, who looks to Broadway on his collection of Jerome Kern's music from *Show Boat*, due to be released on Monday. At the City of London Festival, as on the album, he will be accompanied by Ray Brown, Mundell Lowe and Grady Tate. Incandescent hard bop is the quality most often associated with the pianist Cedar Walton. Yet there is a more reflective side to his work, as he demonstrated last year in his R & B-based, small-group arrangements on *Mystery Lady*. Etta James's tribute to Billie Holiday. Previn: Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-638 8891), Thur 22, 7.30pm; St David's Hall, Cardiff (01222 371236), Thur 29; Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333), Fri 30; Colston Hall, Bristol (0117 922 3686), Sun July 2. Walton: Ronnie Scott's, Fri 21, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon June 19 to Sat July 1.

JAZZ PASSENGERS/CLAIRE MARTIN: Elvis Costello's Meltdown festival opens with the anar-

chic, multi-disciplinary Jazz Passengers, one of the trendsetters from New York's downtown scene. With the former Lounge Lizards' trombonist Curtis Fowlkes at the helm, the group plays everything from Latin to free jazz, and will be joined by guest vocalist Deborah Harry. Slightly more conventional vocal styles are explored by Claire Martin, long acknowledged as one of the half-dozen outstanding talents to come out of this country since the jazz revival of the 1980s. *Jazz Passengers*: Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 8800), Fri 23, 8pm; Town Hall, Birmingham (0121-605 6666), Sat 24, 8pm. *Martin*: Ronnie Scott's, Broad St, Birmingham (0121-643 4525), Mon 19 to Sat 24, 9.15pm and 11pm.

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

ALDEBURGH FESTIVAL: A highlight of the second week will be the European premiere, tomorrow afternoon, of a horn concerto written last year by one of the festival's directors, Oliver Knussen. It is good to see Knussen, whose immense talent has sometimes been channelled into too many non-compositional activities, in creative mode again. The concerto, to be played by the virtuoso Barry Tuckwell and the Philharmonia Orchestra, was glowingly reviewed on its premiere in Japan. Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Snape, Suffolk (01728 453543), tomorrow, 4pm. [5]

OFFICIUM: A musical phenomenon of our times is the "hit" classical record — Nigel Kennedy's *Four Seasons*: the chanting monks Gorécki — that sells massively despite the critics' views, rather than because of them. The bizarre



Oliver Knussen will conduct his horn concerto at Aldeburgh

but beguiling *Officium* is different. Open-minded critics were as pleasantly startled as the public by this curious alliance on CD of the all-male Hilliard Ensemble singing medieval motets, and the Norwegian jazz saxophonist Jan Garbarek, who weaves improvisations of weird soulfulness around the ancient polyphony. Under Wren's resonant dome a concert performance should sound very ethereal and New Age. St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4 (tickets from the Barbican, 0171-638 8891), Wed 21, 8pm. [5]

John Percival

NDT 2: Some of the world's best young dancers struggle to be accepted into this company, the recruiting ground for Jifi Kylián's famed Netherlands Dance Theatre. On a rare visit to London they bring two programmes. The first includes Kylián's *Un Ballo* to music by Ravel. Hans Van Manen's *Two*, and works by young choreographers Paul Lightfoot and Gideon Obarzanek. The latter has another work on Programme Two, together with one by the French choreographer Lionel Hoche, and Kylián's marvellously inventive *Stamping Ground*. Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000). Programme One: June 19 to June 21 and June 29 to July 1; Programme Two: June 22 to June 24 and June 26, 27, 28, all at 8pm; matinee July 1, 3pm.

FOREVER TANGO: The tango needs such precision and passion that its dancers tend to come in couples, and the formula of gathering together several established partnerships has proved popular. This incarnation of the idea has just run for a year in San Francisco; it arrives in London for a three month run. The dancers, singers and musicians are from Argentina. Strand Theatre, London WC2 (0171-930 8800). Previewing now: opens Tuesday, Tues-Sats, 8pm, except June 20, 7pm. Matinees: Thurs and Sats, 3pm; Suns, 4pm.

Richard Cork

VENICE BIENNALE: The grand old jamboree of modern art celebrates its centenary this year. And Jean Clair, the first foreign director to be appointed, organises a gargantuan survey of art and the human body at the Palazzo Grassi. Starting in 1895, it emphasises the most distressing and vulnerable aspects of the chosen scene. Self-portraits by Beckmann, Dix and Bonnard stand out, while British painters, from Bacon to Kossoff, are strongly represented. As our official representative, Kossoff, reappears at full-stretch in the British pavilion. So does Bill Viola, a master of video, who transforms the American pavilion into a virtuoso exploration of *Buried Secrets*. The Aperto section for young artists is abolished, giving the Biennale a retrospective air. But young British artists are well represented in the Scuola di San Pasquale, with a round-up of mixed media work. Palazzo Grassi and other locations in Venice, until October 15 (press office: 003941 521 8009).

DEACON AND SCHUTTE: Collaboration between artists is rare nowadays, but the Lisson Gallery is now showing the fruitful result of an Anglo-German alliance. Richard Deacon and Thomas Schütte may not have much in common. Deacon makes abstract sculpture with, at best, indirect references to the natural and industrial worlds. Schütte models grotesque figu-

res, sometimes reminiscent of Dix and Grosz and then photographs them. Both men show their work separately at the Lisson, but in the main gallery they join forces with playful, enjoyable results. Lisson Gallery, 52-54 Bell Street, London NW1 (0171-724 2739), until July 1.

John Russell Taylor

APSLEY HOUSE: Although the Duke of Wellington's house was known in his day as "Number One, London", it has, curiously, not been one of the better known museums since it opened as the Wellington Museum in 1952. Closed for a complete renovation since January 1992, the results of its conservators' labours can at last be seen. The splendid collection of art, all too little known, has been conserved and replaced: now the imposing Spanish paintings by Velázquez, Murillo and Goya, as well as fine Dutch, Flemish, and 19th-century British, can be relished to the full in the context Wellington created for them. Apsley House, Hyde Park Corner, London W1 (0171-499 5576), Tues-Sun, 11am-5pm. Admission £3. Concessions £1.50.

EELS, PIE AND MASH: Traditional Cockney eel, pie and mash shops, which preceded fish and chips as a popular source of nourishment, are a mystery even to many who would consider themselves Londoners. The photographer Chris Chunn, who was brought up on them, has for the past six years been assiduously documenting those that remain, and his 60 black-and-white photographs are striking testimony to the vitality of the tradition. Since Chunn is a portrait photographer, as one might expect the people are as exciting and extraordinary as the places. Visitors may even be tempted to try the real thing.



Slippery work: women in a London eel, pie and mash shop

Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2 (0171-600 0807), Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sunday, noon-5.50pm, until October 1.

David Sinclair

BON JOVI: Although written off as hopelessly old-hat when the grunge revolution was in full swing, Bon Jovi have outgrown the young Turks and emerged stronger than ever. Their "greatest hits" compilation, *Cross Road*, was the biggest-selling album in Britain last year and on Monday they unleash their latest blockbuster, *These Days*. Their heavy rock sound may have all the flavour of processed cheese, but their live shows are barnstorming displays. Support on these stadium dates is Van Halen, a heavy metal dinosaur, yet touting a surprisingly good new album, *Balance*. National Ground, Cardiff Arms Park (01222 390111), June 21; Wembley Stadium, Middlesex (0181-900 1234), June 23, 24, 25; Gateshead International Stadium, Tyne and Wear (0191 478 1687), June 27; Don Valley Stadium, Sheffield (0114 256 0607), June 28.

GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL: It is too late to buy a ticket, but thanks to Radio 1 and Channel 4, who will both be broadcasting live from the festival site, nobody need miss out on the rock performance event of the year. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, the festival features 1,000 or so artists performing on 17 stages. The Stone Roses have dropped out of the bill, but joining the other headliners — Oasis and the Cure — will be virtually every act that is out on the road this month, including the Black Crowes, Elastica, PJ Harvey, Sir Nile Mindes, Belly, Jamiroquai, Jeff Buckley, Everything But The Girl, the Boo Radleys, U2, the Verve, the Saw Doctors, the Verve, Offspring, the Sleepers, Soul Asylum, Orbital, Tricky and many, many more. Worthy Farm, Pilton, Shepton Mallet, Somerset (0839 668895), June 23, 24, 25. Channel 4: Friday 23: 6pm-6.30pm; 11.10pm-1.10am; Saturday 24: 3.45pm-5.05pm; 10pm-1am; Sunday 25: 1.15pm-3.30pm; 6.05pm-7pm; 10.50pm-12.30am. Radio 1: Thursday 22: 10pm-midnight (Mark Radcliffe); Friday 23: 10pm-1am (John Peel); Saturday 24: 2pm-midnight (Johnnie Walker and John Peel); Sunday 25: 2am (Annie Nightingale); 11am (the Cure, live, and high)

Summoned by the morris men's jingling bells

Ruth Gledhill tries to stay in perfect step with an annual gathering



WHOEVER suggested that Morris dancing was too pagan for an Anglican parish had plainly forgotten that the founder of Christianity was the original Lord of the Dance. We watched as nearly 200 brightly-dressed morris men, bells jingling, strode through Thaxted and into church. But even the vanguard of solemn clergy in red and white penitential vestments, clouds of incense competing with the late spring flowers, could not completely dispel the idea of pagan fertility rites thought to lie behind the modern morris dance. Accompanied by their musicians, fiddles and "animals" — the Thaxted "Skilton" or hobby-horse and the Westminster Unicorn nibbling the necks of startled onlookers — the 20 "sides" of morris men from around Britain were in Thaxted for the annual meeting of the Morris Ring, their national association.

Symbols on their costumes indicated the teams' origins: the Westminster morris men had a portcullis, part of the Westminster coat of arms, on their waistcoats, and the Thaxted side were in red and white, symbols of the ancient local weaving industry. The Ring meeting coincided with the three-week Thaxted festival, founded by Gustav Holst, a former church organist there. The festival included an afternoon of "gentle, funny and frightening"



Lords of the dance: morris men performing outside St John the Baptist Church, Thaxted, Essex

tales from the Pevens, and a display of the Abbots Bromley Horn dance, a combination of fertility and hunting rituals, where the morris men are accompanied by a "Betsy", a man dressed as a woman.

Although there were no Bettys in church, Thaxted exemplifies how Christianity can adapt and use pre-Christian ritual to its own ends. Many of the dancers are active churchmen. The morris man swinging the censer, Joe Hobbs, doubles up as churchwarden. The four servers bearing candles and a cross, and the MC in "cotta" or small surplice and cassock, were all morris men. As well as an offertory hymn, *Sing to Him in Whom Creation Found its*

AT YOUR SERVICE

Shape and Origin, we had an offertory dance. A performance at once sober and lively, the morris dancers waved handkerchiefs and danced perfect steps across the crossing, after which we were asked not to applaud.

The church ritual, like the dancers' steps, was high. Our preacher, the Rev Paul James, wore a biretta in the procession, the Bible was censed before the gospel reading and the servers faced the high altar for the first half of the service.

The sound of tinkling bells indicated a morris dancer on his way to the lectern to read from

Exodus: "The sound of the trumpet became louder and louder. Moses spoke and the Lord answered him with thunder," he said, the rain drumming louder on the church roof as he read.

Father James, not surprisingly, took dancing as his theme for his sermon. "Perichoresis is the Greek word for dancing," he said. "It is the word used by the Greek fathers of the church to describe the relationship of the Holy Trinity — Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They dance around in the mystery of the Holy Spirit. It is the only way to make sense of the central mystery of Christian dogma."

He said the idea of dance "spills out" from this mystery into the world, and said all Christians

should worship and respond accordingly. Dance, like faith, engendered dependency, joy and gracefulness. Father James confessed how, in his first parish, he nevertheless always wore a cassock at social functions to avoid having to take to the floor himself. Describing how he was dipped in the waters on a recent visit to Lourdes in France, he said: "It reconciled again that gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord of Life, dancing again." We prayed for all dancers everywhere before moving on through communion and bowing out with grace at the end.

Sung Mass at St John the Baptist Church, Thaxted, Essex. Tel: 01371 830221.

JAYCO 1350

COVER STORY

3

Continued from page 1
a small but vital thread running through the fabric of the British character, so the sea is an essential theme of British culture.

*Mull was a stern. Rum on the port.
Eggs on the starboard bow.
Glory of youth glowed in his soul.
Where is that glory now?*

That glory, as Robert Louis Stevenson knew full well, is in the fable and song that he and others spun out of the cliffs and ships, the beaches and ports. You can see it in the romance of the sand sculptures that Mark Anderson lovingly carves at Weymouth each day, or hear it in a majestic shanty, or sense it while striding along a great Victorian promenade, like the one now fetchingly restored at Weston-super-Mare.

Tonight at the Aldeburgh Festival a gala concert will mark the 50th anniversary of the greatest of all "sea" operas: *Peter Grimes*. And Britten's masterpiece is as good a place to start our celebration as any. It may ostensibly be about the mad fisherman whose boy apprentices have a nasty habit of dying while in his company. But when you listen to the opera, just as when you hold a seashell to your ear, you hear only the sound of the sea — the North Sea that Britten knew, from his earliest childhood, in all its moods: in terrifying flood, in moonlight calm, and in early morning sparkle.

English music is full of picturesque sea-scapes. Think of Elgar's *Sea Pictures*, Delius's *Sea Drift*, Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony*, Malcolm Arnold's *The Padstow Lifeboat*. I once met a composer who had incorporated the call-signals of all 40 lighthouses in England and Wales into an orchestral piece. (How did it sound? Well, how you do think it sounded?) But no composer has ever captured the savage power of the sea as well as Britten.

Here, however, we must make a crucial distinction. *Peter Grimes* is a work about the sea, not the seaside. There is a world of difference. The sea is limitless, ungovernable — except by some malicious Fate, as when Coleridge's Ancient Mariner is supernaturally becalmed as punishment for killing the albatross. It is a metaphor for the most profound of life's mysteries, or for adventure fraught with unknown peril.

The Romantic poets took a particularly gloomy view of all things briny. For Tennyson, it was Death by another name: "And may there be no sadness of farewell when I embark..." For Byron, it was metaphorical drowning: a world-weary pretence of escape from the tiresome attentions of pretty girls.

*There is society, where none intrudes.
By the deep sea, and music in its roar.*

While for Matthew Arnold, even so reassuring and solid a sight as Dover beach stirred up a profound metaphysical pessimism:

*The sea of faith
Was once, too, at the full, and round earth's shore
Lay like the folds of a bright girdle furled;
But now I only hear
Its melancholy, long, withdrawing roar...*

Other Victorian poets saw the sea as man's implacable enemy: treacherous, spiteful. For the hymn-writers, this was no problem: God was on hand to "bid the mighty ocean deep, its own appointed limits keep". But for an incurable old sceptic like Thomas Hardy, there was no Divine Presence waiting to save the floundering mariner.

Quite the contrary, in fact. In his little masterpiece, *The Convergence of the Wains*, Hardy imagines some terrible supernatural force ripping an iceberg at the same time as man was shaping the sea. What's more, the ice-berg (Hardy implies) was created by this malevolent force in order to reduce "valourousness" to a on the ocean bed, over the sea-worm crawls — slimed, dumb indifferently reading that the that you are caught on a lurching car hours out from



Detail from *The Fisherman's Return* by Theodore Weber. Artists and writers have long been fascinated by the ungovernable forces of the sea

and peacocks, sandalwood, cedarwood, and sweet white wine". But, by and large, artists and writers have been drawn to the sea for much the same reason as deep-sea divers are drawn to explore an old wreck: brave men perished on it.

That is certainly true of such classic naval yarns as C.S. Forester's surprisingly dark Hornblower books, or Nicholas Monsarrat's superb account of Second World War convoys, *The Cruel Sea*. And it is true, too, of the greatest of all sea painters, J.M.W. Turner. Look at the swirling tornado of devastation portrayed in a masterpiece such as (to give this stupendous oil painting its full title) *Snow Storm — Steam-Boat off a Harbour's Mouth making Signals in Shallow Water and going by the Lead*. The author was in this storm on the night the *Ariel* left Harwich.

This is surely the work of a man utterly obsessed with the elemental force of a ferocious ocean. And remember Turner's melodramatic description of how he witnessed the storm: "I got the sailors to lash me to the mast to observe it; I was lashed for four hours, and I did not expect to escape, but I felt bound to record it if I did."

Of course, art historians have subsequently poured scorn on the whole story, pointing out that there is no record of any ship called *Ariel* ever leaving Harwich at a time when Turner could have observed it, let alone been lashed to its mast. That is irrelevant.

threatening, not at all conducive to high-flown emotions; utterly hedonistic in its attractions.

If the sea defines our insularity as a nation ("Fog Over Channel, Continent Cut Off"), then the seaside liberates the British from our pretensions and stuffiness. Seaside culture is unbuttoned, pleasure-bound, earthy. Composers wrote tragic operas about the sea; they wrote music-hall songs about the seaside. And these songs celebrate a place where brass bands still play tiddly-om-pom-pom, and an authentic Donald McGill postcard may yet be purchased, with all its fleshy innuendo perfectly preserved, at the little kiosk between the fortune-teller and the wheel-stall.

As for painting, well, the whole St Ives School strikes me as being seaside, rather than sea, artists. In their seascapes, dinghies seem like toys; indeed the sea itself sometimes appears as tamed as a boating lake. No four hours lashed to the mast to produce this! And yet, in some moods, I love this art more than Turner's. It speaks of humanity rather than unfathomable Nature.

If I had been writing this article 30 years ago, I might have finished with an elegy of anguished nostalgia. Whether the dank, drab British sea front in the dawning age of Jumbos-to-Bendorm? Today, that danger seems passé, if not actually past.

True, we don't have a Turner, a Britten or a Massfield around at present to celebrate our maritime glory with a dash of genius — and don't tell me that Damien Hirst's pickled fish is any substitute. But deep inside most of us there is probably still the yearning for that tall ship and the star to sail her by. Or a not-yet-extinguished glimmer of empathy with lovers who go hand in hand, on the edge of the sand, and dance by the light of the moon.

Or perhaps, on a ghastly, grey Monday morning at the office, you share my irresistible urge to lean back, close your eyes to the pressing trivia, and daydream of wet sand beneath bare feet and the tingling shock of the first plunge into the Atlantic breakers. For as Spike Milligan put it, with his customary matchless bathos:

*I must go down to the seas again,
To the lonely sea and the sky.
I left my shoes and socks there;*

Cover photograph by MARK HARRISON of a sand sculpture by MARK ANDERSON based on STANHOPE ALEXANDER FORBES's *Looking Out*. Cover concept by JEAN ENNESS and MARTIN HARRISON

Richard Morrison's weekly column

Time and tide erode the splendour in the sand

SEASIDE art comes in many strange and wonderful forms. But none, perhaps, is as eye-catching or poignantly ephemeral as that produced by Mark Anderson. Celebrating his thirtieth birthday this week, Anderson has spent the last eight summers creating sand sculptures on the promenade at Weymouth in Dorset.

A man doing kids' work? You must be joking. Anderson's sculptures are about as remote from your basic family sand castle — how ever lovingly its golden

ramparts have been constructed — as AC Milan is from Romford Casuals. Our front cover this week, based on Stanhope Alexander Forbes's *The Lookout*, is an example of his superb work.

In any May-to-October period he would expect to create about five sculptures as big and beautiful as this

(each taking a week to a fortnight to complete, plus a number of smaller pieces). And sand-sculpture is an increasingly popular craft. Hundreds of people do it in The Netherlands and North America. There is even a world championship in Vancouver each September.

Anderson's works range enormously in theme. There are classical busts (recently he did a Roman general with a Dorset connection), but there are also popular images such as Pinocchio. Last year he devised a huge D-Day celebration sculpture involving a rainbow and an amazing 500 sand "poppies", all individually carved and painted. But he also sculpts such staples as bread, fruit and sea horses. Sand being what it is,

they don't last very long — a maximum of four weeks, before bracing Channel winds, rain and (regrettably) morose vandals wear them down into crumbling. Sphinx-like decrepitude, at which point they are put out of their misery. But Anderson doesn't mind too much. Because his work has such a short "beach life", passing holidaymakers whose largesse provides him with his income — can always be assured of seeing him in action on something fresh.

First he will saturate the sand with water, then

mould it into the required relief (he rarely sketches on paper first). After that he carves the intricate detail before painting the whole thing. The sand here, with its rich limestone content, is the finest in the world for this sort of work," he says. "And believe me, I've been all over the Mediterranean looking. Anything to keep me out of England in the winter."

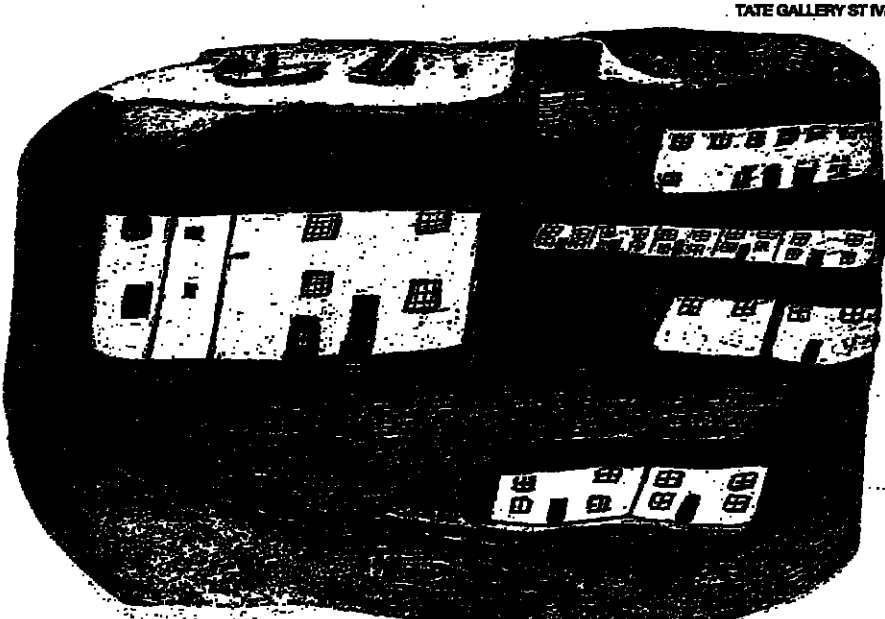
Anderson is following in the footsteps of his grandfather, 85-year-old Fred Darrington, who started doing sand sculptures when he was 15. "Like other boys, he played at making sand castles on the beach, but found he could do it far better than the rest," says his daughter, Mark's mum. He took it up professionally in the 1950s, and is still active down on the beach.

Will Mark Anderson also build in sand for the rest of his life? "I don't see why not. It's outdoors. I earn a reasonable amount of money each season. And I love what I am doing."

RICHARD MORRISON



Tutankhamun on the beach



Above: classic seaside humour on a postcard by Donald McGill
Left: St Ives (circa 1928) by Alfred Wallis
Below left: Between the Tides by Walter Langley

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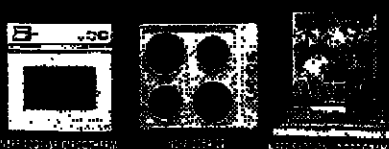
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ARTS

5

Ritual humiliation time for critics

Spare a kind thought for Britain's theatre critics. All right, please yourselves, you hard-hearted bunch. But I do feel a bit sorry for the poor dears. Already this year they have been wrongly accused of driving Stephen Fry into exile, fruitfully rebuked by Tony Slattery, and gently chastised by the magnificent Miss Rachel Welch for frightening her away from the West End. What's more, one critic is currently being vengefully pursued by Steven Berkoff — a terrifying figure, even when in relatively benign mood.

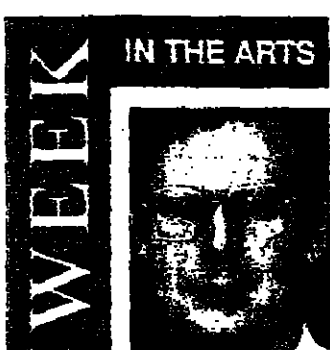
Now comes the final embarrassment for the critics. Or probably not, but it might be close. Back in February a musical opened, *Mama I Want to Sing*, a gospel-song entertainment of the non-cerebral variety, had already played eight years in New York and toured triumphantly in Europe and Japan, netting its producers a tolerable £38 million in box-office receipts. In short, it was a well-tested hit.

When the curtain rose in London, however... well, there are good reviews, there are poor reviews and there are absolute stinkers. *Mama* must have set a new world record in the stinky stakes. On a scale of one to ten, the London critics gave it minus 37. "Absolutely dreadful," *The Daily Telegraph* sniffed. "There are moments when you wish you were dead. This was one of them." *The Financial Times* was similarly discouraging: "This is one feel-good musical that had a deadening effect on the spirits." *The Observer* declared it "nauseating... overwhelmingly mediocre".

In the *Daily Mail* the "legendary" Jack Tinker found the idea of an all-black gospel musical so droll that he decided to write some of his review in dialect. "It sho ain't big fat *Mama I Want to Sing* dat takes di prize," he penned wittily. Tasteless stuff, Jack. Have you thought of doing cabaret for the Ku-Klux-Klan?

Mama's producers were astonished by all this, and still are. "Never in the 12-year history of our show had we read anything like that," said co-writer Vy Higginson this week. "We thought, well, something is very different in England."

Our own Benedict Nightingale was almost alone in detecting the show's "huge verve". *The Guardian* scathingly reported "cloying sentimentality, inept plotting". And just in case the dapper sort of *Guardian* reader still didn't get the message about *Mama*, the critic spelt it out in words of one syllable: "Down it goes — plug, plug."



RICHARD MORRISON

Oh dear. When they come to write the history of disastrous newspaper predictions, "down it goes — plug, plug" will have to rank pretty high. I expect you can guess what happened next.

Far from going down, plug, plug. *Mama* rose in public esteem. And far from being "nauseated", people who had seen it started telling friends how good it was. Suddenly, "house full" notices were going up at the Cambridge Theatre.

So full did the place become, in fact, that on Thursday *Mama* transferred indefinitely to a grander, Shaftesbury Avenue address: the Gielgud Theatre. That most delicious of modern ritual humiliations, The Confounding of the Critics, was complete.

Well, ritual humiliations are fun now and then. That, after all, is what people send their children to public school to learn. What worries me, however, is that the critics seem confounded by public taste more and more often, and in many different art forms.

For instance, a few weeks ago there were several Festival Hall concerts by the minimalist composer Michael Nyman. Each was packed with cheering crowds. Yet most reviews varied from the mildly disapproving to the virulent — and one music critic even refused to cover the concerts on the grounds that it might "desensitise" his ears.

Something similar occurred over this month's London visit by the Irish company, *Riverdance*. Its show is fast, exhilarating and immensely popular. Yet presumably because of its *Eurovision Song Contest* origins, the reviews from some critics have been astonishingly snobby. "The company," the *London Evening Standard* said, "are to folk dance what Andrew Lloyd Webber is to musical theatre — slick showmen who rob art of its authenticity".

Of course critics are right not to be swayed by hype. And of course they are right to be angrily contemptuous of marketing tactics such as we saw this week from Michael Jackson. To buy his new album, his young fans (or rather, their hard-pressed parents) will be forced to buy a whole album of old songs as well. That deserves a unanimous critical raspberry.

But when performers or artists are condemned in print simply for being popular, or for presenting an entertainment that is not of doctrinaire level in intellectual depth, then we can rightly ask the critics what kind of service they think they are providing, and for whom. To go along to a musical like *Mama* expecting to measure its characterisation against Ibsen and its dialogue against Stoppard is not only stupid, it's unprofessional. If the critics don't learn that lesson soon... well, as *The Guardian* would say, down they will go. Plug, plug.

THEATRE: Wild grotesquery from Tunisia

Sex and senile delinquency

Familia
Riverside Studios

THIS is Tunisia's answer to early Theatre de Complicite. *Familia* is the madcap, macabre tale of three old crones in an amorous tangle with a grossly fumbling detective. They are the surviving sisters of a dying breed, cloistered in their decaying mansion while still nursing sexual cravings within their sagging bodies.

The extraordinary Arab director, Fadhil Jaïbi, with a



Baccar: geriatric toad

spartan set of mouldering screens, tells the story in bold expressionistic episodes. Bahja chastises the nymphomaniacal Molka, gurgling furiously in a guttural Arabic, foul-mouthed French, and spasms of English. Bahja waddles in and out like a geriatric toad in a black headscarf. Molka, hideously busty, reclines porn-style on the dining table trying to control a gruesomely amusing

attack of the shakes. Babouma scoots about skeletally, frizzed hair on end. *Familia* is a mercilessly funny and grotesque portrait of old age. Yet these women are also touching. There is one extraordinary scene where Bahja (Jallila Baccar) transforms to and fro, raging and struggling, between slumped, slaving decrepitude and erect erotic youth — remembered or briefly regained.

The storyline is puzzlingly rambling, but stylistically *Familia* is a treat. The pallid faces of gothic horror are lightened with the rosy noses of cold clowns. The piece is also strongly flavoured with melodrama. Ali Mosbah as the hunchback detective sports the inch-thick eyebrows of the Victorian villain. His death throes, after the ladies ladle out some poison from their bone-china tureen, are convulsively silly.

Throughout his violent terminal lurches, Babouma stares coldly out at us, a vengeful glint in her eye, with the face of a silver-screen heroine who never got rescued, but has wasted away into a spinster, slowly eaten up from the inside.

KATE BASSETT

An angel in our midst

DONALD COOPER



Angela Gheorghiu: "The important thing is to use the voice and the music to create the reality of the drama"

The rise and rise of Angela Gheorghiu (pronounced "gyorg-yoo") is a peculiarly operatic phenomenon. New stars bursting upon the firmament are what punters want, what record companies need, and what the popular press expects from a world of reputedly non-stop glamour rather than hard graft. And in the young Romanian soprano — she is nudging 30 — they have found their new star.

She made her Covent Garden debut in 1992, two years after graduating from the Bucharest Music Academy, as Zerlina in Johannes Schaa's dark *Don Giovanni*. "That was my first and last Zerlina," she says firmly. "Too low, too short. I like more to challenge me vocally, more character." Mimi, Liù, and Micaëla followed, plus a sweetly determined Nina in last season's surprise hit for the Royal Opera, Massenet's *Chérubin*.

Even stuffy old critics welcomed a really individual, bright soprano sound, natural musicianship and a wonderfully communicative way with words, and some felt it would be ungentlemanly not to mention her striking appearance — "slender as a pullet", as Baron Ochs remarks of Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, and with lustrous, dancing eyes.

But the stuffy welcome was swept away by a flood of star-worship last November when Gheorghiu sang her first Violetta in the Georg Solti-Richard Eyre *Traviata*. BBC2's schedules were cleared

Rodney Milnes meets Angela Gheorghiu, the young diva who has melted the critics' hearts

for an instant transmission, and the unscheduled live recording hurriedly made by Decca is released on Monday. Since then her tabloid-friendly romance with Roberto Alagna, touted as the next Pavarotti, has made her famous for much more than 15 minutes.

There is a head on those pullet-slender shoulders quite cool enough not to be turned by all this: Gheorghiu knows who she is and what she is worth. She is also properly grateful to the people she has worked with, and the remarkable thing about that *Traviata* is that everyone — even Solti — was performing it for the first time. "We were all so fresh, so excited by what we were doing," she recalls, "and it was very good experience working with Richard Eyre. For four days we did nothing but read the text like actors, to get right inside the drama. Then came music rehearsals, and after that the actual production."

Solti was plainly entranced by finding a Violetta who could sing the role so faultlessly: as those performances and the recording show, she makes it sound astonishingly easy, even that knit-one-purl-one colouratura in *Sempre libera* perfectly, precisely voiced. She shrugs off the technical challenge. "I never thought it was difficult. The important thing for me is to use the voice and

the music to create the reality of the drama. That was pure pleasure."

So she and Solti moved from notes to interpretation. "I would say, 'Maestro, I want to try this sort of phrase, or this sort of tempo, or he would reply, 'OK, from this moment I do what you want, I am your accompanist'." Insiders might suggest that this is not Solti's normal way of working, and perhaps Gheorghiu knows it. "I'm very lucky."

She is also lucky that her talent was soon spotted by Plácido Domingo. She will sing Micaëla with him in a new *Carmen* at the Met, and Desdemona to his Otello at the next Salzburg Easter Festival. This is a bit of a surprise — Desdemona is a very grown-up role, but, again, she knows it. "That's a special thing. I'm doing it just the once and it's not going to be part of my immediate repertoire."

For the rest, her immediate plans centre upon more roles from the Italian and French lyric repertoire. "I have a very good teacher here," she says, gesturing to Alagna, from whom she seems inseparable. They will perform *Roméo et Juliette* together in Washington, and there are plans for *Faust* and *Manon*.

The last two they will record before they do them on stage, which may cause the odd problem, since Gheorghiu is contracted to Decca, and Alagna to EMI, but even possessive record companies need to be flexible in the face of such bankable talent. An EMI duet disc is on the stocks, mainly of the French and Italian extracts that have made them so popular, but with a bit of *West Side Story* thrown in — "just for fun".

Sensibly, she declines to be drawn further into the future on the subject of a voice that is, as she says, "just me", a natural, God-given gift. If Desdemona goes well, might it expand from lyric to dramatic? Will Violetta turn into a *Traviata* Leonora? "I don't know. I've told you about the immediate future. Time will make the decisions."

ART GALLERIES

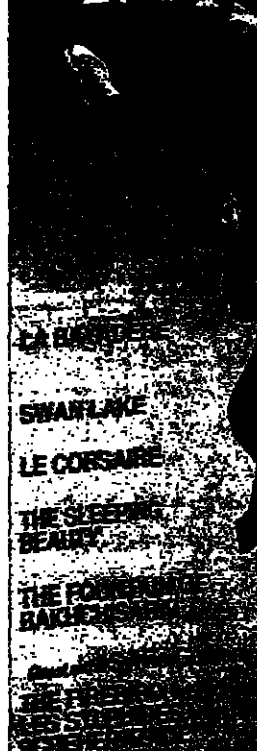
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RECORDINGS: Gaelic yearning from Capercaillie; Michael Jackson's scream of rage; Pavarotti's early years

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ CAPERCAILLIE
Dark Alan (Ailein Duinn)
Survival SUR554++
KAREN MATHESON of Capercaillie has a voice that is easily the equal of Sinead O'Connor's or Enya's and, in *Dark Alan*, a tune worthy of its attention.

The number is featured in the movie *Rob Roy*, and is an updated version of a traditional Gaelic song. The keening drone of Davy Spillane's uilleann pipes is quickly picked up by Matheson's gorgeously heartsease vocal, and the song's mystical ambience and drifting cadences evoke a deep sensation of yearning, rarely found in other strands of popular or folk music.



Matheson: gorgeous, heartsease vocal

POP ALBUM

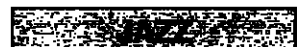
David Sinclair

■ MICHAEL JACKSON
HIStory - Past, Present and Future - Book I
Epic EPC661224++
PART celebration of a wondrous career, part self-justifying concept album, *HIStory* is an uncomfortable combination of the effortlessly brilliant and the self-consciously average. Sold as an indivisible, double-disc package, it yokes a 15-track "greatest hits" compilation to a new 15-track album, an inspired marketing play which may well start a new industry trend.

The hits have become part of the fabric of modern music. Laid end to end *Billie Jean*, *Bad*, *Beat It*, *Thriller*, *Don't Stop 'til You Get Enough*, *Black or White*, *Man in the Mirror*, *Remember the Time* and the many others stand as a suitably impressive monument to one of the popular entertainment giants of the 20th century. But the new material is less obviously distinguished. Embattled and embittered by his treatment at the hands of his country's legal system and the world's sensation-hungry media, Jackson has, understandably, lost his temper. The naive idealism and childlike flights of the imagination which informed his great work of the

past have been swamped by a side of anger, cynicism and self-pity, and songs such as *Money*, *Tabloid Junkie*, *D.S.* and the current single, *Scream*, are scathing, personal rants, pegged as often as not to sketchy rap-type tunes, which reveal a side of Jackson which has not been seen before.

"You are disgusting me! Just want you out from me," he accuses his tormentors in *2 Bad*, while warring in a strange, strangled voice, full of rage, that "This time around, I'm taking no shit" (*This Time Around*). The ballads, which range from the moody *Stranger in Moscow* to the mawkish *Childhood* adopt a self-analytical tone with talk of a "swift and sudden fall from grace" and compensating for "the childhood I've never known". The overall effect is initially overwhelming. Jackson has been unfairly picked on in recent years and you can hardly blame him for wanting to hit back. But it is not an attitude which sits comfortably on his slender shoulders or which chimes with the previously escapist nature of his music.



Clive Davis

■ THE RALPH SHARON

Swings the Sammy Cahn Songbook

DRG 52324++

SINCE words rather than notes were his true métier, the late Sammy Cahn might not appear a suitable case for treatment. By the time that Ralph Sharon has dispatched *My Kind of Town* and *Tenat Me Tonight*, listeners will be in no mood to quibble about technicalities. Sharon has been Tony Bennett's pianist for many years, so he can be expected to know his way around this material. More engaging still are the deft orchestral sonorities that he creates from the unostentatious combination of piano, bass and drums. At a time when "songbook" recordings have become slightly predictable, Sharon's training as an arranger makes all the difference.

His light touch at the keyboard is matched by the sprightly interplay of Doug Richeson's bass and Clayton Cameron's drums. On the Sharon original, *Blues for Sammy* — a tribute that is anything but lugubrious — Richeson's lines suddenly take on the light, strumming sound of a Freddie Green-style rhythm guitar. Felicitous touches such as this are scattered across the album, and the guest appearance by Gerry Mulligan on three numbers — including the glowing *Guess I'll Hang my Tears out to Dry* — is all the more of a bonus.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ MAHLER
Symphonies Nos 6 & 7
LPO/Tennstedt
EMI CDS 5 55294 2
(3 CDs)++

Symphony No 6
VPO/Boulez
DG 445 835-2++

BOTH of these Mahler Sixes are major recording events, yet each, in its different way, fails to deliver everything it promises. Klaus Tennstedt's performance was recorded live at the Royal Festival Hall in November 1991. This most fateful, most tragic of all Mahler's symphonies seemed to gain a dimension in the hands of the frail figure on the podium, himself scarred by the fierce life-and-death battle enacted in it.

Unfortunately, the performance has not transferred well to CD. The Festival Hall is nobody's favourite recording venue, and the sound picture is constrained, masking incisive detail and inhibiting the emotional expression.

All is not lost, however. The ecstasy and jubilation that Tennstedt finds in the finale — in spite of the dread hammerblows of fate — come across unmistakably, and this is in any case an invaluable record of a unique event. The coupling is the Seventh Symphony, a work whose elusive, mysterious character finds a sympathetic interpreter in Tennstedt.

Pierre Boulez's Sixth is significant because it represents his first recording of a Mahler symphony. Typically, the detail is revealing, the textures refined. But it is difficult to reconcile this intellectualised approach with the highly-wrought, febrile, quixotic music of the first movement and Scherzo. The Alma music lacks the surging passion of Tennstedt and the slinky, Salome-like dance episode of the Scherzo passes for nothing. The Andante, however, is taken at a more comfortably walking pace than is Tennstedt's, yet is eloquently inward at the same time. In the expansive finale, moreover, Boulez really lets himself go, unfolding a magnificently conceived structure, whose expansive expression gains immeasurably from the superb playing of the Vienna Philharmonic.

OPERA

John Higgins

■ PAVAROTTI

The Early Years

Various orchestras/

conductors

RCA Vol 1 09026 62451 2++

Vol 2 09026 68014 2++

ON THE surface this looks a job lot of Pavarotti recordings

NEW ON VIDEO: Kellogg's flakes; Garbo, the temptress; and America through the hoops

■ THE ROAD TO WELLVILLE

Entertainment Video, 18, 1994

ALAN PARKER'S exhaustingly exuberant treatment of T. Coraghessan Boyle's comic novel about John Harvey Kellogg, inventor of corn flakes and champion of "biological living". Anthony Hopkins barks health slogans through Bugs Bunny teeth, dung is flung, and you cannot move for jokes about enemas and erections. The quieter performers come off best, such as Matthew Broderick as the reluctant sanatorium patient, increasingly concerned by Kellogg's regime. Available to rent.

■ AMATEUR

Fox Guild, 15, 1994

HAL HARTLEY'S most accomplished film to date, a cockeyed romantic thriller about a nymphomaniac nun (Isabelle Huppert), an amnesiac pornographer (Martin Donovan) and some incriminating floppy disks. Hartley's trademarks remain — cryptic images, circular dialogue — but the plot provides more momentum than usual. You even care for the fates of the two main characters: lost souls, amateurs at living, trapped in a muddle of desires, ambition and self-doubt.

■ SUCCESS IS THE BEST

Arrow, 15, 1994

NO recent director has quite matched Jerzy Skolimowski's skill in viewing London through foreign eyes and treating the complex emotions of émigrés. This quicksilver tale of a Polish theatre director preparing to mount a "happening" while his son simmers with rebellion lacks the cogency of its predecessor, *Moonlighting*, but the irony, humour, flights of surrealism and razor-sharp visuals still make a fascinating film. With Michael York and Michael Lyndon (Skolimowski's own son).

■ FLESH AND THE DEVIL

MGM/UA, U, 1927

WATCHING Greta Garbo and John Gilbert make love with their eyes, hands, kisses and caresses, you watch

Tongue twister: Anthony Hopkins plays John Harvey Kellogg in Alan Parker's *The Road to Wellville*

silent cinema at its most romantic. He is a nobleman, she a temptress, and director Clarence Brown surrounds the pair with none but the most exquisite images. A marvellous product of the 1920s dream factory, served up with a throbbing Carl Davis score.

■ GLEN OR GLENDA

Pickwick, PG, 1953

ACHINGLY personal, achingly inept, Edward D. Wood Jr's first feature is by any standards a remarkable film that defies all pigeon-holes. Wood himself tackles the central role of the man anxious to tell his fiancée

about his yen for women's clothing, while Bela Lugosi sits on the sidelines spitting out philosophical comments in his best Hungarian accent. Two other films from the master of bad cinema are also available: *Bride of the Monster*, famous for Lugosi's battle with a rubber octopus, and *The Bride and the Beast*, the terrible tale of an explorer's new wife who finds herself fancying a gorilla.

■ HOOF DREAMS

PolyGram, 12, 1994

BASKETBALL dominates people's lives in this wonderful three-hour

documentary, but the film's real subject is the American dream at work. For more than four years, Steve James, Fred Marx, Peter Gilbert and their cameras stuck close to two inner-city teenagers who begin with partial baseball scholarships to the same Chicago school. Then life plays its tricks: parents go on welfare, a ligament gets torn, a father drifts into drugs. Packed with detail and colourful characters, it is like the Great American Novel transferred to film. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

snapped from live performances up and down Italy at the start of his career. The earliest dates from 1964 at the "Grudgionz Festival" — wherever that is — and the last are from 1969, the year of his Met debut. The sound quality is variable, and on some tracks



Pavarotti: highlights from leaner times

RCA's remastering team has clearly had its problems, but the pleasure comes from hearing the likes of Muti and Abbado — also close to the beginning of their careers — conducting Pavarotti in Bellini.

The rewards come primarily from the vocal excitement the tenor carried with him even in those early days, coupled with the exceptional zest he brought to everything. That first Grudgionz track has *Nessun dorma*, a bit strained

but hinting that someday Pavarotti and Calaf would be inseparable. The Bellini extracts, two slices of *Puritani* and one from *I Capuleti*, recall how he excelled in this particular composer. The Pavarotti-Sutherland partnership in *Puritani* was something quite special.

Other highlights include *Quando le sere* (Vol II) from *Luisa Miller*, with the recitative given full force, which was recorded long before Pavarotti tackled Verdi's opera on stage. Note too the *Cujus animam* from Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, conducted by Giulini, which shows the considerable ballast Pavarotti's voice already carried in his early thirties. The booklet features a soprano in *Lombardi*, who does not appear and both records have a cover showing Pavarotti eating a yellow rose. Pasta might have been more appropriate.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ SCHUBERT

Complete Songs Vol 23

Prégardien/Johnson

Hyperion CDJ33023++

IN 1816, at the age of 19, Schubert finished with his teenage lover, left his teacher Salieri, moved away from home — and wrote enough songs to fill two volumes of

Hyperion's continuing complete edition. This, the second, sees masterminding Graham Johnson joined by the German tenor Christoph Prégardien in one of the outstanding recitals of the series.

At its heart are the three great Harper songs from Goethe's *Wilhelm Meister*: Schubert's highly sensitive settings of the poems of an old man living, in Johnson's words, "on the fringes of society and on the edge of sanity". Prégardien's plangent upper register brings a unique poignancy to them.

The disc begins with one of those long ballads of the Celtic twilight which Johnson has so eloquently championed throughout this series. Here, *The Death of Oscar* finds a spooky echo in a tiny choral item, *The Grave*, inserted immediately after it and sung by Stephen Layton's London Schubert Choral.

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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE

Little growing pains

At the entrance to Philip-
pa Cannon's Lang-
thorns Plantery, near
Great Dunmow in Essex, a
notice reads: "Please keep
children and other pets on a
lead." Most visitors smile and
take a hint. A few, Mrs
Cannon says, flare up in
indignation. But what can
children get out of just looking
at plants, either in a garden or
in pots at a nursery?

Naturally, children like to
race about, to jump over rows
of pots or innocently (or other-
wise) pull labels out of pots or
mix them up. But it is no fun
for the cashier at the checkout
explaining to a customer that
the label on the plant they
have bought is the wrong one.
And if the mistake gets past
the cashier and the cute little
alpine puts on 6ft of growth,
the nursery's reputation suf-
fers, too. This
spring, the *National Trust Magazine*
published a
letter from a member
deploring the
Trust's attempts to
bring child-appel to
its properties.
"To children
these gardens must
seem like good
places to run ar-
ound in."

Well, of course,
few ordinary chil-
dren are interest-
ed in anything so con-
servative as gar-
dening. What buzz
should they get
from plant associa-
tion and colour
harmonies, when
there is all that new
space to explore? At that age it
is more fun just to play.

Perhaps children should not
be allowed in ornamental
gardens?

Rousham, in Oxfordshire, is
an early William Kent garden:
a peaceful gem of trees, statu-
ary, temples and water. Child-
ren under 15 are not admitted.
This may be frustrating for
parents, but it is not unreason-
able. There is little for them to
do there except run and shout,
which would defeat the whole
point of the garden.

Gardeners who have their
loving work stomped on by
children speak with bitter
frustration. Many would like
to double the adult entry fee
for children. To these garden-
ers, thoughtless minor dam-
age has a cumulative effect: a
small branch of a magnificent

Should children be banned from the nursery?

rhododendron pulled off to dip
in a pond, a fern frond
stripped to its spine by a
passing hand, plants trodden
down to climb up a wall. If a
deer or rabbit did this, it
would be shot.

The parents always seems to
be ten yards behind, noses
down to some fascinating new
species, and enjoying what
they have paid to enjoy. It is no
fun having to keep a close rein
on children. But when unsup-
ervised, not only can children
undo the gardeners' best
efforts, they can come to harm.
Gardens are basically safe
places, but there can be tempt-

away before Mr McGregor,
the gardener, comes along
bearing that threatening stain-
less steel spade...

The best place for children
to enjoy plants and gardens is
at home, where they can grow
their own plants, handle them,
dig them up, eat them per-
haps, get dirty and generally
learn to enjoy gardening for its
own sake. Gardens as art can
wait until much later. Let
them wonder at a sunflower
soaring to the sky, but do not
ask them to take pleasure in
species of erodium. Let them
come to gardening as they
might to train spotting.

My ten-year-old daughter
has learnt, with a little encour-
agement, to identify most of
our native ferns. It is a game,
learnt not with a field guide
but by handling them all,
getting to know them only as
you can in your
own garden. There
it stops. I do not
pretend she will
suddenly start
wanting to grow
hostas and gerani-
ums, but it does not
matter. Learning to
look at and distin-
guish the detail of a
plant is a great
lesson.

A few larger gar-
dens open to the
public provide ad-
venture play-
grounds, to divert
the children while
the adults look
around. It makes
the whole visit a
much more tempt-
ing proposition.

And the owner can
feel justified in asking a higher
admission price. It is a trap, of
course. Abandoned young-
sters eventually tire of high-
jinks and set off into the
garden to find their parents.

Parents with very young
children will have to decide
which one of them stays in
charge at the playground. If
you take the toddler around
the garden, you can bet your
life that just when you have
reached a mile or so to an 18th-
century eyecatcher, the child
will want to go to the lavatory,
which is nowhere in sight.

Just remember: the eyes of
the garden-visiting National
Trust card-holding world
could be watching you down
the classical vistas, abhorring
the rise of child appeal.

STEPHEN ANDERTON



Visiting beautiful gardens is fun — for whom?

ing hazards: trees, ponds,
walls and ha-has. And it is the
death of any garden's appear-
ance to put up fences and
notices at every turn. Gardens
are meant to be exciting: that is
why we adults like them.

I am ashamed to say that
when my eldest daughter was
18 months old I dragged her
around 14 gardens during a
week's holiday in Devon. I
wouldn't dream of doing it
now, with three in tow. It is the
stuff of nightmares. The sort
where you lose them all in a
50-acre garden on a hot, sunny
day. Somewhere out there you
know they are singing and
dancing on the National Col-
lection of something very spe-
cial. Meanwhile, the wall garden,
in a web of horticultural fleece,
and stand no chance of getting

feel justified in asking a higher
admission price. It is a trap, of
course. Abandoned young-
sters eventually tire of high-
jinks and set off into the
garden to find their parents.

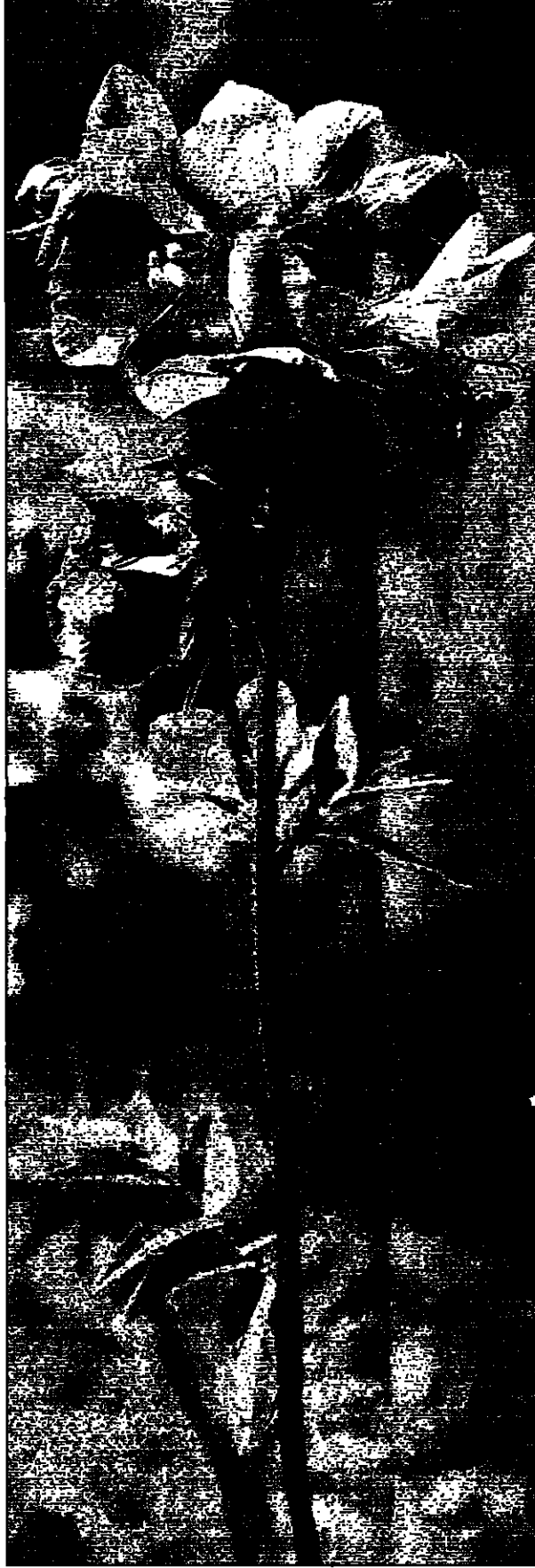
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Just remember: the eyes of
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the rise of child appeal.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, on two perennials worth more attention

PICTURE STORE



Blue blooms of *Polemonium caeruleum* (Jacob's Ladder)



Greenish-yellow *Polemonium pauciflorum*



Blue-yellow *Sisyrinchium idahoense*

Jacob's Ladder into the blue

Polemoniums and sisy-
rinchiums are such
well-behaved and use-
ful families of sum-
mer-flowering perennials that
they are easily overshadowed
by their more showy and tem-
peramental colleagues. Differ-
ent plants from each genus
featured in this year's Chelsea
Flower Show, but they are true
garden plants, not just for
show: easy to grow, with long
flowering seasons, and strik-
ing but different foliage habits.

Polemonium caeruleum has
the delightful common name
Jacob's Ladder, because of the
arrangement of its ferny leaf-
lets at right-angles up the
stems of 2-3ft. It produces
rounded blue flowers in early
summer which continue into
July, sometimes longer. Na-
tive to Britain, it has been
cultivated for centuries (sup-
posedly first by the Romans).
It should be planted in full sun
or partial shade, and the only
thing to look out for is its
invasive tendency, because it
self-seeds vigorously.

The ladder-like arrange-
ment of pinnate foliage is
common to all polemoniums,
but two others I recommend.
P. carneum and *P. pauciflorum*
are different in appear-
ance to Jacob's Ladder.

P. carneum is a native of

California but, despite origi-
nating in a hot climate, it is
reliably hardy. It is more
dome-shaped than Jacob's
Ladder and makes a superb
clump of ferny foliage, usually
about 1-2ft high. The flowers
are the same rounded shape as
Jacob's Ladder but appear
later, and their colour is a real
contrast, changing as they
mature. Often almost white in
bud in late June or July, they
later take on a pink or flesh-
like hue, which gives the plant
its name. The strength of pink
varies, considerably, depend-
ing on the soil — alkaline is the
favourite — and can become
almost purple as the flowers
mature into late summer.

P. pauciflorum is smaller,
usually growing to about 1ft. It
is another American native
from arid southwest states
such as Arizona, but is also
hardy. The whole plant has a
slightly droopy habit, accentu-
ated by the flowers which are
tubular, with open petals at
the end like small hanging
trumpets. Pale greenish-yellow
in colour, they have a bronze
tint where the petals join the
tubes. All polemoniums have
graceful habits, but this one's
combination of leaf and flow-
ers make it particularly ele-
gant and easy to integrate into
any mid to late-summer bor-
der combination.

Sisyrinchiums, with spiky
iris or grass-like leaves, make
a startling contrast to polemo-
niums. The clean, bold lines of
sisyrinchiums are invaluable
among more blowsy or pendu-
lous plants. *S. striatum* was
used to good effect on a
number of stands at Chelsea.
A couple of years ago it under-
went a brief change of identity
and was re-named *Phacoph-
lops nigricans*, but happily its
old name has been restored
and is the one you will find in
nursery catalogues.

Most sisyrinchiums origi-
nate from South or Central
America, and they like a
sunny, well-drained position.
But they are true perennials,
being reliably hardy, if not
always very long-lived.

S. striatum is Andean and
one of the tallest, growing to
2ft or more. Its green sword-
like leaves are complemented
by taller, erect stems up which
the star-like white or creamy
flowers appear in June and
July. There is a variegated
form, 'Aunt May', for whom
the inspirational aunt must
have been a fearsome charac-
ter, given its sharp-edged
leaves and tall flower spikes.

Last year I bought a
plant of *S. idahoense*
'California Skies',
which has been a
great success. Far smaller
than *S. striatum*, it makes a
low clump about 4in high, but
has similarly spiky leaves. The
flowers are mauve-blue, with
tiny yellow centres, and stand
out brilliantly against the dark
green leaves. They appear at
the end of May and continue
through the summer.

I planted mine to one side of
our front gate, where it has put
up with regular knocks. Such
toughness makes it an ideal
candidate for planting in gravel
or in the gaps between
paving stones on a terrace,
rather than in a border where
it would have to be planted
right at the front.

You may not find all of these
plants at a garden centre, but a
good nursery should stock
some, if not all.

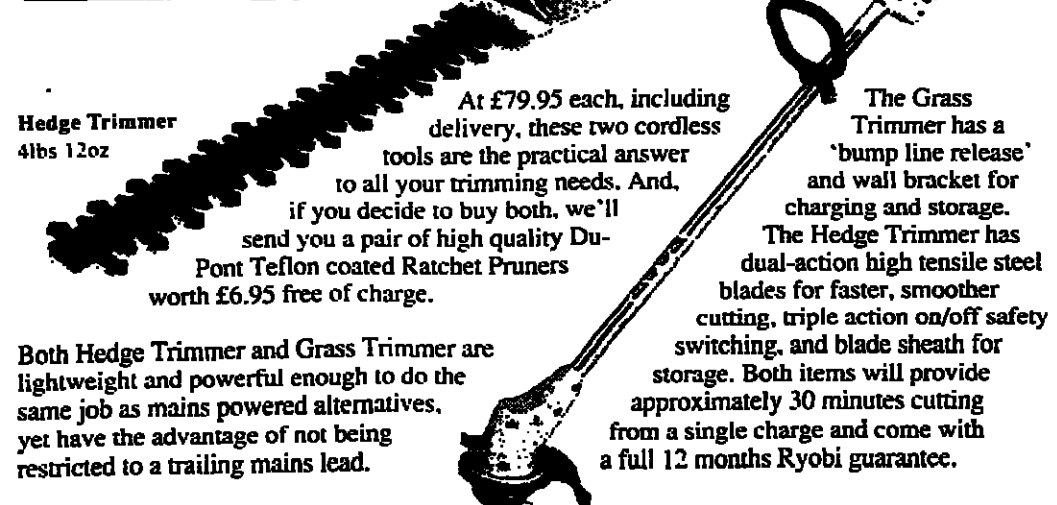
They are also listed in *The
Plant Finder* (Moorland Pub-
lishing, £12.99) and, for those
varieties that do not have a
'widely available' entry, the
book includes the names of
specialist nurseries which
offer them.

THE TIMES

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WEEKEND TIPS

- When dead-heading roses, also remove suckers at the base.
- Ensure that soft fruit, such as raspberries and gooseberries, are netted to counter attacks by hungry birds.
- Divide flat iris if the rhizome has grown to a large clump. Lift and divide the rhizomes, retaining the outer pieces, with roots, and discarding the old centre. Replant so that the tops catch the sun.
- Damaged or curled-up foliage is best removed now. Many insects and caterpillars can be removed by hand or treated with derris or insecticidal soap if you want to avoid pesticides, though these are more effective.
- Plant out the strong seedlings of winter vegetables, such as cabbage and brussels sprouts. Space cabbages about 18in apart, the brussels sprouts 2-3ft, and water regularly for the next few weeks.

□ **Montacute House, Abbey Farm and Park House, Montacute, Somerset** (Montacute House 01935 823289; Abbey Farm, 01935 823572).

Open tomorrow, 2-5.30pm. Combined
entrance £2, children free. Montacute
House open daily throughout year,
except Tues, 11.30am-5.30pm. Entrance
(garden only) £2.70; Nov-April £1.30.

Montacute House and its garden en-
closures, with yew topiary and herbaceous
borders surrounded by Elizabethan Ham
stone walls and overlooked by delightful
gazebos. Is one of the National Trust's
most visited gems. Visitors to the house
tomorrow should also make time for two
other gardens in the village which open
together once a year.

Abbey Farm was once the gatehouse to
the medieval Clunian Priory, and the
series of small adjoining gardens, en-
closed by walls of the same Ham stone,
are an ideal setting for the ancient
building. Summer-flowering Clematis,
climbing roses and wall shrubs are
trained up behind herbaceous borders.
The planting throughout is being con-
stantly extended. A small arboretum is
among recent additions.

The second garden belongs to Park
House which, earlier this century, was the
home of the literary trio of Powys brothers
and features in many of their books. The
house looks out over open lawn and the
most rewarding area for the visitor is the
old walled garden, where herbaceous and
mixed borders enclose a kitchen garden in
the process of being redesigned.

□ **Hunworth Hall, near Holt, Norfolk** (01263 713306).

Two miles south of Holt, on Briston
road, turn right to Hunworth Green.
Open tomorrow, 2-5pm. £1.50,
children free.

Formal late-17th century gardens were the
models for this impressive example
created over the past eight years. The
house was built in the 1690s and has
attractive Dutch gables. This, and the
knowledge that there was an original
Dutch-style garden, encouraged the own-
ers, Henry and Charlotte Crawley, to
embark on making one of their own.

The Crawleys started with a two-acre
rectangle that had reverted to rough
grass, enclosed on three sides by 17th-
century brick walls, with the house close

Gardens to visit

which extends to a gazebo raised on stilts
like columns, with a hipped roof and
lantern topped with a golden ball. In line
with the gazebo, at the end of the second
canal, is an orangery, with columns
surmounted with terracotta urns.

The period formality is meticulous,
with avenues of standard hollies, and old
varieties of cherry trained in espaliers
against the walls. Behind the gazebo and
orangery an enormous 80-year-old beech
hedge clipped into topiary shapes con-
ceals the kitchen garden beyond.



Stone pavilion at Montacute House

□ **Bramham Park, Wetherby, Yorkshire** (01937 844 265).

Five miles south of Wetherby, off A1.
Open tomorrow-Sept 3, Sun, Tues, Wed,
Thurs, 1.15-5.30pm (last entry 5pm).
£2, children £1.

Bramham Park is the grandest formal
woodland garden in England. Extending
to 50 acres, it covers two areas divided by
a small valley. The garden was laid out in
the early 18th century by Robert Benson, a
former Chancellor of the Exchequer who
built Bramham (also open). Mature
beech woodland has been maintained
with the addition of much replanting in
recent years. Long paths lined with
clipped hedges cut vistas between the
trees, with a series of outstanding temples

overlooks a sunken formal rose garden,
with one area of the woodland garden
beyond. The garden's most delightful
building, a gothic temple, stands in a
large glade with the grass sloping down to
a series of cascades. Views extend across
the small dividing valley to the second
area of woodland, where the dome of an
impressive rotunda and a tall obelisk
beckon. A complete tour of the garden is
for the energetic visitor.

□ **Ingatstone Hall, Ingatstone, Essex** (01277 353010).

In Ingatstone, take signed turning
from main street. Open April 15-Sept.
Fri, Sun and Bank Hol Mon, and
Thurs July 12 to Aug, all 1-6pm. £3.50,
children £2.

This is a garden to visit and savour: the
Elizabethan atmosphere lingers, in keep-
ing with the fine Tudor red-brick house
(also open), begun in the 1540s by the
Petre family, who still live here. Pleached
limes line the drive to the stable block,
with a central clock tower over an arch
through which the U-shaped house
appears beyond wide lawns. A yew hedge
to the right screens the main area of
garden, where a large lawn sweeps down
from the house to a long rectangular step
pond. This is as old as the house, or older,
and was dug to provide fresh fish. On the
far bank, a nut walk leads into a long
walk between pollarded limes. Clumps of
gunnera shade the banks.

□ **Shipton Hall, Much Wenlock, Shropshire** (01746 636225).

In Shipton, six miles southwest of
Much Wenlock. Open Easter to end
Sept, Thurs, Bank Hol Sun and Mon.
£2.50, children £1.50.

Shipton presents a delightful picture from
the small passing road. The view extends
across a walled courtyard garden, with a
central path and flights of steps between
house. On one side is a Georgian stable
block and dovecot, just in view on the
other is a Saxon church. The courtyard
garden, with drums of clipped golden yew
climbing roses, has an intimacy that is
well suited to the architecture of the
house. Towards the church the path leads
past a weeping lime tree and a long
herbaceous border.

JAN 16 1995

Stephen Anderton has clear ideas on avenues for cottages and town houses

In a less cottagey border, I might be tempted to try the scarlet-flowered crab apple 'Profusion', treated in the same way and kept to a small head. In a chic town garden it might be fun to try the purple-leaved, pink-flowered *Prunus* weeks before they fade to show the plant's true sycamore colours. It is usually supplied top-grafted on a trunk and, being extremely slow-growing, makes a dense head over many years.

In a shadier place, where high



Hatfield House has a remarkable mini avenue of the evergreen oak *Quercus ilex*. A long line of them flanks a formal path, each head clipped to a perfect sphere and

Also evergreen, but with perfumed white flowers in spring, are

columnar trunk. In old age it will be tall enough for a full-sized avenue. But even 10ft can take decades to reach, depending on the climate. Perhaps one might try the (almost) hardy Japanese banana, *Musa basjoo*, for its mighty paddle-shaped leaves.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

replies to readers' letters

A Trees benefit from the lack of grass competition, especially productive fruit trees. However, large, mature fruit

A It's worth trying if your windows are sunny. Go for the low-growing species, or dwarf strains, as the plants will inevitably be drawn upward. Gazanias would be good, and the dwarf blue ageratum and broomillias. Busy lizzies would do well. Turn the plants daily, and pinch them out in the early stages to make denser plants. But watch out for greenfly.

● Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters can be returned.

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
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By JOANNE GLOVER

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The building is rumoured to have been a brothel in Victorian times, right in the centre of London's old East End. It was this area that Jack the Ripper stalked in 1888, he was never caught and he is believed to have

brutally murdered six 'ladies of the evening'. History has never proved conclusively the true identity of the original Jack the Ripper, although many theories abound.

Who knows? One of his victims may have even handled one of these historic original crowns. British crowns from a time when all of our high-denomination silver coinage was made of 925 sterling silver.

I have applied for two and requested different dates. I intend adding them to my own collection, they will certainly make a fascinating addition. British crowns are always



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You should try your luck too, at only £29.95 each and less than 350 available, you'll have to hurry. You can apply in writing stating the number you would like, along with your name, address and postcode to Gold and Silver Bureau at 3 Sevenways, Ilford, Essex, IG2 6XH. If you are lucky enough to be allocated any, it will have been well worth the effort.

If you want to apply over the phone and don't mind suffering a few engaged tones, call them on (0181) 551-8333, even on a Sunday, and you may find out instantly whether you will be successful in obtaining one or more. Don't send any payment initially, you will be notified if you are one of the lucky few whose application has succeeded. Original solid silver antique British crowns will make a nice addition to the family treasure.

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PROPERTY

13

The best odds on the market

How curiosities, follies, castles and grottoes are proving ever more popular with today's buyers

The first sale by Pavilions of Splendour, after Guy Headley formed the eccentrically-named company last summer, went for £105. The property, a Victorian gingerbread-style cottage in the village of Deeping near Corby, Northamptonshire, was without water, electricity, sanitation and vehicle access. The new purchasers were not concerned. They had the use of the building for 21 years, providing they underook to bring it up to modern standards and hand it back to the freeholder in that state. It was a good deal for Mr. Headley too. He was paid £2,000 for handling the contract. "This represented a commission of 1.905 per cent. I doubt if I shall ever better that," he says.

Mr Headley's enterprise, which takes its name from the old hymn, is eccentric all the way down to its prices, which are given in guineas. It is not so much an estate agency as a dating service for those who desire a meaningful relationship with a folly, ruin, castle, stable, pagoda, dovecote, grotto or obelisk.

Pavilions of Splendour numbers among its present clients the owners of a crenellated building that could be part of a film set for Dracula; a brick-built towered chapel in Penge, southeast London; and a wisteria-clad Victorian fantasy in Woolhope, Herefordshire. Recent sales include a cottage in Brightling, East Sussex that was formerly a cruciform early 19th-century observatory, and a derelict folly tower near Perth that Mr Headley sold last year for £25,000 guineas (£26,250).

Dudley House in Dulwich, a southeast London pavilion, is a Victorian neo-Gothic folly incorporating grandeur on a tiny scale. With crenellations that crowd up the pitched roof of the three bedroomed property, and battlements on the flat part above, the



Known as The Chapel, the first-floor three-bedroomed property at Royal Watermans Almshouses, Penge, is under offer at £150,150

kitchen, it is quite unlike the sober terraces that make up the rest of the street. Inside, the fantasy is repeated. In the living room, the distinctive ceiling is characterised by extraordinary ornate plaster loops and curves that swirl up around the frieze and curve in towards the rose in the centre.

The house was the creation of leading plasterer Ralph Gardner, who built it in 1852 to attract potential clients in addition to those who came to him impressed by the plasterwork he created at nearby Dulwich College. It is now on the market with Pavilions of Splendour at 130,000 guineas (£136,500).

Three miles away is another south London curiosity, described by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner in his *Buildings of England* series as "the most prominent building in Penge". Known as The Chapel, it could pass as a gatehouse of a Tudor palace. The first-floor property is part of a group of almshouses built in 1840 "for aged

watermen and lightermen of the River Thames". It has a Victorian hammerbeam ceiling, decorated with two grotesque plaster faces. The three-bedroomed property, complete with tower rooms which won a Civic Trust award in 1991, is currently under offer at 143,000 guineas (£150,150).

Wessington Court, Woolhope, Herefordshire, is the south wing of a large brick Victorian country house, once occupied by the Booker-McConnell family, sponsors of the Booker Prize, and reputedly the site of the palace in which Lady Godiva and her sister Wulviva were raised.

The six-bedroomed property, with impressive expanses of chestnut and pitch pine flooring, has views across open countryside towards Gloucestershire. The price, including two acres, a large garden with swimming pool and a spinney, is 250,000 guineas (£262,500).

The Cottage in the Sky, otherwise known as April Folly, is typical of the properties on Mr Headley's books. It is a top-floor apartment hewn out of an early "Victorian Tudor" mansion, Clyffe House, which is set in the sweeping grounds at Tincleton on the southern slope of Wareham Forest, Dorset - Hardy's "From Vale".

Mr Headley has also just taken on a Martello tower in Folkestone, Kent. It is one of 73 similar structures built around the south coast at the beginning of the 1800s to withstand a threatened Napoleonic invasion. The price of the two-bedroomed property, with sea views and a quarter acre plot, is 122,000 guineas (£128,100).

Mr Headley is also actively seeking properties in Europe and America, but his main problem is

finding suitable properties in Britain to sell. The demand at present seems to be for gatehouses and lodges. People realise that these were often built by the architect of the main house, so they are usually of a high quality, but of a size tailored to the needs of the late 20th century.

In summer, people switch to wanting lighthouses. Mr Headley hasn't any on his books at present, but he is hoping to take instructions on one later this year. "I am very selective over the properties I take on," Mr Headley says. "I look for either a listed building or something that can justifiably be described as 'bizarrely odd'. I have more than 1,000 names of house-seekers on my mailing list, but I could do with more properties - even ruins."

CLIVE FEWINS

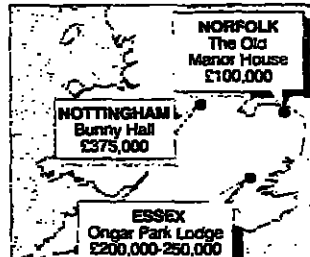
● Pavilions of Splendour, 22 Mount View Road, London N4 4HX 0181-348 1234.



Above: Nottinghamshire - Bunny Hall, Bunny, Grade I listed 18th-century hall house in ornamental gardens, woodland and ten acres of parkland, south of Nottingham. The house, with 44 rooms, including a tower, needs complete refurbishment and upgrading. Outline planning consent has been granted (subject to a Section 106 Agreement) for the change of use of the property to a hotel and restaurant. Price, about £375,000. As this property is Grade I listed and very large, the cost of renovation is likely to be extremely high (Savills Walker Walton, 0115 9552255).



homes in need of renovation



Left: Norfolk - The Old Manor House, Northrepps, two miles inland from Cromer. Grade II listed early 17th-century house in need of restoration and modernisation, in a third of an acre of gardens. Six bedrooms, extensive attics, two bathrooms, four reception rooms and kitchen. Large barn and outhouses. Price, about £100,000. Cost of renovation, about £60,000 (Savills, 01603 612211).

Right: Essex - Ongar Park Lodge, North Weald, Grade II listed country house, in need of total renovation, with a lake and rural views. Three ground-floor rooms, five rooms on the first floor, and two attic rooms. About 2.4 acres of potential garden and paddock. Price, about £200,000 to £250,000. Cost of renovation, about £50,000 to £60,000 (Savills, 01245 269311).

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Price Guide: £550,000

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مكتبة الجليل

Almost the oldest profession

The job of literary agent has a longer history than is commonly supposed

Literary agents, who needs them? Authors begrudge them their fees (at least 10 per cent of any advance or royalties, but possibly twice as much); publishers often see them as interlopers and resent their haggling; readers are barely aware of them.

But agents have a necessary and important function in the literary world. For them, small is still beautiful: the maximum size for these firms seems to be about a dozen individuals, and even the largest literary agencies — such as Curtis Brown, Peters Fraser & Dunlop or Shell Land — are minnows compared with the publishing conglomerates. Where once publishers saw themselves as gentlemen and agents as the players, agents may now have more clout, more money and above all more fun than the employees of anonymous, bureaucratic conglomerates. It is now common for publishers to become agents: recent examples include my own agent, Georgina

Capel, David Godwin and Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson.

My father, Paul Johnson, has had some 25 books published without ever employing an agent, but I do not know how most writers could manage without one. In the global village of publishing, no author can possibly have the expertise or the energy to negotiate over subsidiary rights on his own behalf. A good agent must be the author's eyes, ears and mouth — for there are times when a writer does well to shut all three.

Agents must also chivy, console and jolly along even the idliest or most dejected author — while never betraying a hint of irritation. It is not a career for literary hero-worshippers, still less for would-be writers. The best model of all would be those intrepid yet selfless law-

yers who avert miscarriages of justice in so many American films. (Admittedly, the two American agents best known in Britain — Ed Victor and Andrew "the Jackal" Wylie — are closer to another Hollywood stereotype: the hustler.)

In short, literary agents deserve a more glamorous image. There has not generally been considered an ancient profession. The oldest agency in the world, A. P. Watt (still going strong under Caradoc King), is 120 years old this year. The last



DANIEL JOHNSON

scholarly history, published in 1968, was James Hepburn's *The Author's Empty Purse and the Rise of the Literary Agents*. As most of the firms listed in the *Writers' and Artists' Yearbook* were founded in the past 20 years, it is time somebody tackled the subject again.

Now, however, literary agents have been given a much older pedigree by a brilliant new monograph, which also throws new light on the earliest journalists: Anne Goldgar's *Impolite Learning: Conduct and Community in the*

Republic of Letters, 1680-1750 (Yale, £25). Goldgar has discovered two early 18th-century Frenchmen, De la Motte and Marchand, who were, in effect, professional literary agents. They placed manuscripts, negotiated terms, and provided a link between the *librairie* [bookseller/publisher] and the author.

Though these agents did not charge a commission for their services as intermediaries between scholars and the book trade, they seem to have made their living as freelance proofreaders. If a manuscript was placed with a *librairie* by the good offices of an agent, the latter could often count on being employed to correct the proofs, at a rate of around ten shillings a sheet — quite good pay. But the agent continued to repre-

sent the author, too. These agents felt more akin to their authors than to the tradesmen of the booksellers' guilds: "The mercenary spirit of the book trade was thought to engender a dishonesty completely foreign to the ideals of the Republic of Letters," Goldgar writes.

Another highly revealing chapter, "Writing to the Papers", deals with the rise of learned journals and the men who wrote them. Gradually replacing private correspondence as the principal means of communication in the erudite world, these journals were from the earliest days recognisable ancestors of the modern press. One of the most famous, the *Journal Littéraire*, was written by a group known as the "Chevaliers de la Jubilation", because they met every Friday at a coffee house in the Hague for a convivial evening of joking, drinking, conversation, and the reading of verses and amusing discourses written for the occasion. There is nothing new under the Sun.

The future is bright, the future isn't green

■ FACING THE FUTURE
By Michael Allaby
Bloomsbury, £17.95

BETTER the sinister that repents than the ninety and nine who never stray, the Bible tells us. If so, we should welcome this book from Michael Allaby, a veteran of the environmental movement of the early 1970s, who has written a remarkably level-headed defence of science and scientists.

Common sense remains the rarest of commodities, Allaby remarks. He points out that teachers in democratic countries are forbidden to use lessons for political indoctrination — "but environmentalist literature crosses the barrier, usually unnoticed". Such literature, he argues, disguises a political message with a pseudo-scientific gloss. This is all the more welcome from somebody the environmentalists might have believed one of their own. While the current generation of green campaigners is too young to know it, the obsession with environmental issues today exactly echoes the period from 1969 to 1973.

Then, many talented people abandoned sense, threw up their careers and set up communes in Wales or Cornwall. Millennialist ideas generally came to grief, so most of these happy groups of like-minded people left our fairly quickly, slept with each other's wives, ran out of money and disbanded. Those of us who experienced just enough of the infection to acquire insanity were well prepared when the same ideas sprouted afresh in the early 1990s.

Environmentalism and science are uneasy bedfellows. There are times when the evidence really does justify the alarm bells ringing, but most often the truth is not as green-and-white as our campaigners would like us to believe. Allaby cites the case of Bruce Ames of the University of California, inventor of the Ames test for screening carcinogens, who had an article rejected by the magazine of the Sierra Club, a veteran California conservation organisation, because it was too optimistic.

The reality, Professor Ames asserted, is that the future of the planet has never been brighter. This is the same Professor Ames who, in the early 1970s, warned us all that hair dye would give us cancer.

Allaby's book is an exploration of the anti-scientific bias in modern culture. Misplaced environmentalism is, of course, only one element. He deals also with fears about disappearing resources, and admits to having been one of the authors of *A Blueprint for Survival* ("a subtle mixture of turgid prose and apocalyptic prognostication" — his words, not mine) which foretold the death of civilisation through the exhaustion of minerals.

Other chapters examine the nature of science and its opponents. By denying the possibility of progress, he argues, the critics of science are short-changing society and spreading a wholly unjustified gloom about the future. He makes a persuasive case. This book is an excellent corrective for anybody in danger of an acute attack of environmentalism which includes about half the planet.

NIGEL HAWKES

Dangerous passions

IF THE genus of modern romantic fiction stems from the medieval quest, these novels are in a direct line of descent. So, too, is the fashion for writing about the maiden in distress, even if those graceful mythical ladies are no match for their modern, sexually sophisticated sisters.

Rosie Thomas's *A Simple Life* concentrates on the quest. Dinah Stead is an apparently happily married woman. Her husband is an up-and-coming scientist, her two sons healthy and normal. They are living in Massachusetts, where Matthew is pursuing his pioneering work on treatment for

■ A SIMPLE LIFE

By Rosie Thomas

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besotted with three-times-

married Rupert, is trying to

persuade her Catholic mother to

agree to her engagement. Theresa

Riven is right to be suspicious. However good-

looking, Rupert is much older

and has a bad track record. But

he is as depraved as Theresa

is inclined to him?

The female in jeopardy offers

the novelist a convenient metaphor

with which to dramatise the dangers of

passion — its obsessions and its

lack of judgment. Into this

unusual, meaty and compulsive

brew, she stirs Catholic preoccupations

with good and evil and the frisson of

the psychological thriller. Love,

she suggests, may be distorted by

religious dogma and closed

minds and finish in violence, but

it is as well to remember those

ills are not intrinsic to the

condition itself.

Emily Silver also runs into a

spot of danger in Carol Brennan's

fun and tangy *Chill of Summer*. A

resting actress, she has fled to her

grandmother's house in Connecticut,

which she has inherited, only to be

knocked out by a body falling out of

the deep freeze as she is trying to

mend a fuse.

Like her male counterpart, the

modern female fictional detective

tends to walk alone. The twist here

is that sharp, feisty Emily hauls in

her lover to help solve the murder,

proving that, after all, love has

its uses.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN



Thomas: seductive skill

diabetes. But, in leaving England, Dinah has been displaced and into this displacement creeps guilt and desperation. Fifteen years ago, on Matthew's insistence, she gave up her Down's syndrome daughter for adoption. After meeting a friend's adopted daughter, Dinah is driven to search for her own.

Thomas is tender to her characters, clear on the dangers of the broken family, firm on the healing qualities of love, and she tells her story with seductive skill.

In Emma Cave's *Bluebeard's Room*, Lucy Riven,



Material girl or girl as raw material? Madonna performs for the industry at the Brits

Sing out, sisters, sing out

Caitlin Moran is incensed enough to wage war on the music business

■ THE term "rock star" is still, essentially, a male tag. Discuss.

And so, seemingly every music journalist in the world is discussing, Amy Raphael's *Never Mind The Bollocks* (Virago, 1995), Karen O'Brien's *Hymn To Her* (Virago, 1995) and Simon Reynolds's and Joy Press's *The Sex Revolts* (Serpent's Tail, 1995) have all charted similar paths to *She Bop*. It is by now generally accepted that it was female blues musicians who brought the blues to white, mass-market attention. It is women who have consistently come up with the best songs — Diane Warren, Ellie Greenwich, and Cynthia Weil all wrote songs that you have in your record collection (*Do Do Ron Ron*, *River Deep*, *Mountain High*, *Be My Baby*), and yet you may never have heard of them, and until recently, they were treated shoddily by the very record companies their royalties propped up.

Lucy O'Brien charts all of this and more, with heroically restrained anger — but where her book triumphs over other "Women In Rock" tomes published this year is in her cold, impassioned investigation into the actual machinery of the music industry — the sexist managing directors; the

■ SHE BOP
By Lucy O'Brien
Penguin, £12.50

lascivious A&R men, responsible for signing new talent, and only signing female talent if it looks beddable; and the male music journalists who make female PRs' jobs hell.

This book is a joy on many levels: as a music journalist, O'Brien enthuses about music and rock stars so elegantly that one immediately likes to seek out and listen to the records she describes; and as an historian and a character of misogynist evils and woes, she forces you to reassess the exploitative images of female songwriters and musicians that were, and still are, being used every day; and piles of case studies make your blood bubble and seethe with indignation. The subject to *She Bop* is: "Girls, don't burn your bras. Burn down buildings instead — ones with corrupt, slimy sexist slugs in them."

If you are a woman but not a feminist, then you are issuing an open invitation for people to walk all over you. And if you are a feminist with the slightest interest in music and you do not read this book, then your ignorance will be used against you every time you purchase a record.

A woman of no importance

■ A SCANDALOUS LIFE
By Mary S. Lovell
Richard Cohen Books, £19.99

beauty. She was also "out and out the cleverest woman" the Victorian explorer and translator Richard Burton ever met. Yet, such cleverness as she had was entirely wasted. She was independent enough to flout convention sexually. She had a scandalous divorce from her first husband, Lord Ellenborough, and clocked up the odd one-night stand as well as well as her better known liaisons and marriages. Yet, she was not unconventional enough to produce lasting art of any kind. Her sketches and watercolours are amateurish. The writing in her diary lacks

all literary talent: "Happiness inexpressible, and unknown but to those who are condemned to possess my ardent, ungovernable feelings." This is the phoney emotion of a deeply selfish woman. Jane left a trail of wrecked relationships and abandoned children in her pursuit of what she called "love".

To make a worthwhile subject for a biography, a woman (or man) must have done something of importance. Our interest in reading the genre may be a search for a role model. Jane Digby, alas, was neither a role model nor a history maker and has nothing to teach us.

FIONA PITT-KETHLEY

The Times/Dillons Bestsellers

	HARDBACK	Last No. week	No. sold
1 THE RAINMAKER John Grisham (Century)	£15.99	4	2
2 MORE RHODES AROUND BRITAIN Gary Rhodes (BBC)	£15.99	3	3
3 OUR GAME John le Carré (Hodder & Stoughton)	£16.99	1	6
4 RIVER OUT OF EDEN Richard Dawkins (Weidenfeld)	£9.99	2	2
5 LAST HUMAN Doug Naylor (Viking)	£14.99	9	6
6 THE SEVENTH SCROLL William Smith (Macmillan)	£15.99	8	9
7 FINGERPRINTS OF THE GODS Graham Hancock (Heinemann)	£16.99	5	9
8 RIVER CAFE COOK BOOK Rose Gray & Ruth Rogers (Ebury Press)	£25	6	3
9 HIGH FIDELITY Nick Hornby (Collins)	£14.99	0	8
10 DESTINY OF NATALIE X William Boyd (Sinclair Stevenson)	£9.99	7	2

	PAPERBACK	Last No. week	No. sold
1 SOUL MUSIC Terry Pratchett (Corgi)	£4.99	1	6
2 THE CHAMBER John Grisham (Arrow)	£5.99	2	10
3 OUR DAY AFTER TOMORROW Alan Folsom (Warner)	£5.99	3	4
4 ON DANGEROUS GROUND Jack Higgins (Signet)	£8.99	0	1
5 ORIGINAL SIN P. D. James (Faber)	£8.99	5	8
6 CLOSING TIME Joseph Heller (Pocket Books)	£5.99	0	1
7 THE SCOLD'S BRIDLE Minette Walters (Pan)	£4.99	0	1
8 SELF DEFENCE Jonathan Kellerman (Warner)	£5.99	0	1
9 ABSOLUTE TRUTHS Susan Howarth (HarperCollins)	£5.99	6	10
10 A BRIEF HISTORY OF TIME Stephen Hawking (Bantam)	£6.99	8	3

THE TIMES/NPI SPECIAL OFFERS



NPI TREASURES OF BRITAIN CAMPAIGN
SUPPORTED BY THE TIMES

EYAM HALL, EYAM, Derbyshire, is the venue for Shakespeare's The Tempest at 7pm from Thursday, July 6 to Saturday, July 8, performed by the Box Hedge Theatre Company, in the private garden. Now in its fourth year, the company has developed a reputation for energetic performances combining beautiful open air settings with entertaining productions.

Build by the Wright family in 1671-2, Eyam Hall is a typical Derbyshire manor house, built of local stone, in the heart of this historic village. The walled garden, not normally open to the public, is of 17th century origin and features a bowling green and a garden house.

Play tickets: adults £9.50 (including wine); children £7.50.

Garden open for picnics from 5.30pm. The house will not be open for viewing.

Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered 10% off all play ticket prices.

Details: 01433 631976

AVINGTON PARK, Winchester, Hampshire, is the venue for the Galloway Antiques Fair from 10.30am to 6pm on Friday, July 7 and Saturday, July 8, and from 10.30am to 5pm on Sunday, July 9. The fair will be held in the house and will feature a large selection of antiques and fine art available for purchase by the public, including furniture, porcelain, silver, etc.

Dating from the 11th century, Avington has seen many changes over the years. Originally belonging to the Diocese of Winchester, it became the home of the Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. This beautiful house, where Charles II and George IV both stayed, is in an idyllic setting and features a magnificent ballroom, painted by Verrio, c.1670, and drawing room, painted by Clermont, c.1780.

Admission: adults £2.50; children under 16 free. Times/NPI Passport holders have been offered £1.00 off the admission charge.

Details: 01962 779260

Over the summer months the NPI Treasures of Britain Campaign, sponsored by pensions specialist NPI, in association with The Times, offers Passport holders the opportunity to visit many of Britain's most beautiful historic properties at special rates.



If you missed the tokens but would still like a copy of the Passport Guide — featuring 100 historic properties — and Passport Card, send a cheque for £1.95 (inclusive of 65p p&p), made payable to Spero Communications Ltd, to The Times/NPI Passport Offer, Spero Communications, PO Box 349, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3UE.

Derwent May reviews the critics

5/5 Pleasure ratings are awarded to a maximum of five. Column centimetres indicate the length of reviews to date in national broadsheet newspapers.

3/5 Stingers for Kingsley: Eric Jacobs has written an authorised biography of Kingsley Amis (Hodder, £17.99), and — said Alan Watkins in *The Spectator* — "if you want to know not only what Sir Kingsley does in the bathroom, but moreover in what order, Mr Jacobs will tell you". Lynn Barber in *The Daily Telegraph* was more concerned with what Jacobs had left out.

She said he had "provided an excellent map of the territory and a definitive portrait of old buffer Amis who keeps the Garrikin in a roar — but not of the young Amis, the romantic, the Communist (forsooth), the poet... When Amis is dead the fun can really begin."

In *The Sunday Telegraph*, Ian Hamilton called Amis "one of the half-century's most subtle and delicate prose stylists" but said "the last thing we want to do is join him in the Garrikin... Jacobs hardly ever pauses to remind us why we should take an interest in the man". In *The Observer*, Valentine Cunningham said that Amis "gets away with his intense line in the baser instincts because his apparatus of amusement is so well oiled", and he was glad that the "amiable" Jacobs could sometimes be "sharpish". But he was impressed by the way Jacobs brought out "Amis's unrelenting terror about the new, chaos, death". In *The Times*, I suggested that, Good Thing though he is, Amis has already told us all we want to

THURSDAY

Classical music special: John Amis on Mozart, books on Bernstein, Mahler and the history of music in London; plus Rachel Cusk on the new Mark Lawson

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Sara Driver discovers that boys fear their mothers and mothers sometimes hate their offspring. Who would be a parent?

and hate that mothers can feel towards their children.

Many women will identify with the painful revelations contained in Parker's novel, and will recognise one's recall of "hurling the baby down on the pillows once, and just screaming, and not caring. I wanted to kill him, really. I think it was to do with being so tormented and guilty."

The unacceptability of hatred has led analysts to decry the emotion and mothers to deny it, but Parker believes that recognising that maternal love is often counterbalanced by powerful, negative feelings of anger "actually spurs mothers on to struggle to understand and know their baby". Her book may help reassure other mothers that they are not alone in experiencing such bewildering, contradictory emotions towards their children.



PENNY PERRICK

Dressed up to the 19s: day dresses, June 1919 — from the revised edition of James Laver's *Costumes & Fashion*, updated by Amy de la Haye (Thames & Hudson, £6.95)

Shea: genuine insight

This will not make hugely comfortable reading for John Major, particularly with Michael Portillo and his ilk peering over his shoulder. Shea's PM is, of course, a wholly fictional character with the name Michael Wilson.

though perhaps "Harold Heseltine" would have been a happier amalgam. He is, however, the author of a failed "back to basics" campaign with a popular image "as a cross between a used doorman and the yawn personified". Who said grey men could not be colourful?

From Manchester to Cardiff, Marcel Berlins on the trail of the gumshoes

knife (You're the reason I'm leaving my wife"), had just taken out a \$500,000 policy on his life. Swanson has a Carl Hiaasen feel for the black humour of absurdity and an Elmore Leonard way with raunchy, punchy, wry

as Manchester's greatest sleuth is not much of a compliment, given the dearth of competition; but the wisecracking Thai-boxing Brannigan would be terrific anywhere. She is the genuine article: game, clever, blunt, scary and witty, but without pretensions or (too many) hang-ups — fish and chips rather than cordon bleu. In *Clean Break* (with Ian McEwan), *Mean Streets* (1949), and *Mean Streets* (1949), she chases a tiny Monet stolen from a country house for which she had provided the security, lusts after an insurance chief who looks like Imran Khan, probes an outbreak of fatal tampering with an industrial cleaning product and has *emotional* turmoil with her long-standing guy, Zippy action, a well-crafted plot and some refreshingly gritty northern truths.

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CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Some thoroughly chappish boys' boys rollick around in

thoughtful, and include *Ha-lachi* and the Magic Sandals by Juliet Heslewood (Barefoot Books, \$9.99), an *Incya story* with a message about kindness; and *African Animals ABC* by Philippa-Allys Browne (58.99), a stunning picture book for under-fives to treasure. My three-year-old loves *Incya* and the flowers and their needs. My five-year-old liked *Thesens* and the *Minotaur* by Jules Cashford, with Daniel De'Angelis's dream-like illustrations, but I found the narrative cold and I'm hopped over Cashford's embarrassing question-raising account of the rape of Osemen. Philippe's *Incya* is the best of the season which produced the *Minotaur*. *Put devant les enfants*, please.

SARAH JOHNSON

"SHE BRINGS IMPERIAL ANCIENT
ROME TO LIFE"
ELLIS PETERS

LINDSEY
DAVIS
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IN PALMYRA

AD 72: Marcus Didius Falco leaves Rome on his most dangerous mission yet.

"GREAT FLIN"

PHILIPPA TOOMEY, THE TIME

OUT NOW IN  PAPERBACK

TIME TO DEPART C

[illegible]

The six winning entries to the Spring Bank Holiday Junior Crossword, published on May 27, 1995, who each receive £100 are:

K. J. Allen, 18 The Crescent, Loughton, Essex.
E. P. Fraser-Gausden, 51 Carlisle Road, Eastbourne.
D. Gauge, 1 Garold Francis, Penycae, Wrexham, Clwyd.
A. Hall, 12 Cranedown, Lewes, East Sussex.
P. McO. Plunkett, OPS/LOG Division, Shane BPO 26.

OUTDOORS

17

I always hoped that when I took up farming I would somehow forge a mystical union with the land, sky and wind, and gain an understanding of the four great seasons of the year. It has not worked out quite as I expected.

I suppose I should blame poets and writers for raising false expectations. My mind was filled with Dick the Shepherd blowing his nail, and Shelley's wild west wind, breath of autumn's being, and Tennyson's moans of doves in immemorial elms. Not to mention: *There's a whisper down the field where the year has shot her field. / And the ricks stand gray to the sun, / Singing: 'Over then, come over, for the bee has quit the clover. / And your English summer's done' (Kipling).*

I would love to be able to say that I have no further need for clock or calendar; that the rhythms of my life are dictated by the migration of the sun through the heavens. It would make me genuinely happy to tell you that the means of the dove had supplanted the Budget as a marker in the year, or that it was the quiting of the bee from the clover which spurred me into gathering fuel for the bleak mid-

When mutterings mark the seasons

winter, instead of a special offer of bulk heating oil.

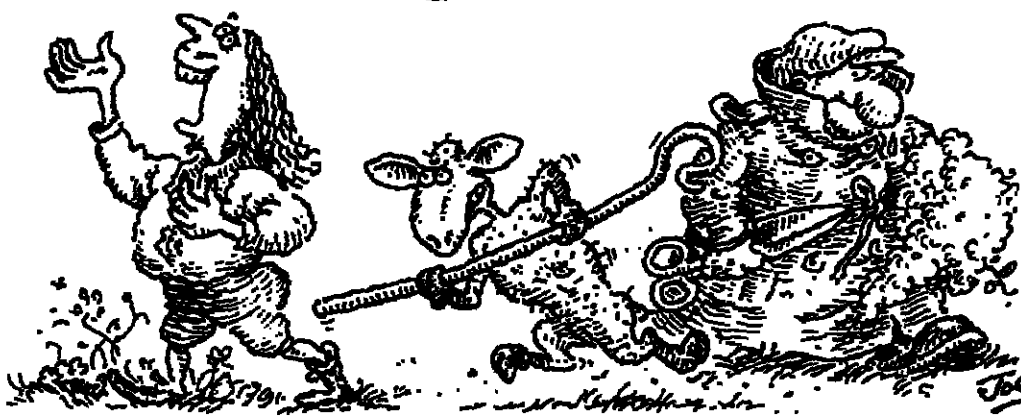
Instead, I find that, increasingly, the turning of the seasons is marked ever less by the events of nature and ever more by the mutterings of man.

It was a casual encounter with a neighbour in the village which crystallised this in my mind.

It has been bitterly cold these past couple of weeks, cold for June anyway. The wind has been set in the north and the poor cows and horses who lost their winter coats back in early May, when it looked as though a blistering summer was on the cards, now find themselves cruelly cheated and spend long days under the hedge with their backs to the wind.

"More like April," I cried to someone I met in the street, turning up my collar to deflect the drizzle.

"We always say that," he replied. "Every year, the same. We mean that we've had to put the heating back on as if we'd never had to do



it ever before. But it's the same every year."

Thinking back, it is amazing how the same conversations are held every year, at roughly the same time, and always on the same subject — far more reliable than bees leaving clover.

Take the business of the leaves of the sugar beet. This topic of conversation is almost as punctual

the rows by the date of the county show. As the Suffolk Show always

falls at the end of May and the leaves look some distance from an embrace, there is much shaking of heads, as if the end of the world had just been declared official. For all I know, since that bit of folklore was established they may have moved the show forward a few

weeks. But the discussion must still be held, every year, on the plight of the crop.

Then, again in the spring, we have the ritual of standing at the edge of the meadow, meaning about how the grass does not seem to be growing properly. This is irrespective of the state of the crop. Somehow, we dare not let ourselves be optimistic.

If I dare to mention, casually, that the grass is looking fine, someone is certain to pipe up: "Yes, the grass is not too bad. But it's not growing properly yet."

The blades of grass could be high enough to tickle that chap's armpits, but the sowing of doubt has become such a yearly occurrence that I now suspect that the seasons will not advance until the ritual has been played out.

"Time those sheep were sheared" — that's another one. As soon as any warmth is felt in the spring, someone will look at the flock and remark that "they're be ready to have them

coats off". Had I followed that advice every time it was given I would have had a flock of sheep which would have qualified for the Government's cold weather allowance. Had they not died in the meantime.

Shearers will tell you that there is a right time to take a fleece from a sheep and it is when the oil is beginning to rise in the wool. It appears to have little to do with what the thermometer suggests. Nevertheless, every year for the past five I have been urged to take early shears to the flock. Every year I have ignored the advice. But now I know that, until I have heard those words and suffered a subsequent cold snap, spring cannot possibly turn to summer.

So forget that stuff about larks and cuckoos and spring not being far behind: poets clearly spend too much time indoors. Chronicle the conversations instead. *Hark, summer's near, the farmers moan, / bawling unshorn sheep and tardy seed. / Rejoice! The summer surely must be close. / 'Tis grumbling, not the sun, that makes the seasons speed.* (Henney).

You could well have better verses to offer.

Wildlife floods to a Levels playing-field

A fair deal is struck with nature as Somerset's Avalon marshes are returned to bitterns and marsh harriers

When no less than three new National Nature Reserves are declared on the Somerset Levels next month, the celebratory banquet will be small recognition of an awesome restoration campaign.

The marshes and lakes of Avalon are being re-created for the benefit of the wildlife that flourished before man pumped water from the wetland habitats earlier this century — and in doing so drained the chances of survival for some species as surely as if they had tapped the lifeblood from their veins.

Pumps have been switched off on areas of land in the Brue Valley, west of Glastonbury, flooding much of what was ravaged by peat mining. The sedge peat laid down 6,000 years ago as the sea receded has been bagged, sold and spread over millions of suburban gardens.

Despite peat loss, the Levels are recognised internationally as a refuelling stop for birds migrating south. Wetland habitats have been disappearing fast nationwide, but some survive in the Levels and farming has not ruined the potential to restore others.

The declaration by English Nature on July 19 of the three reserves is gold-star recognition for an extended area of Shapwick Heath, Westhay Moor and Ham Wall, managed respectively by English Nature, Somerset Wildlife Trust and the RSPB.

They have been designated as much for their potential as for their existing wildlife. Their new status will enhance bids for conservation funds, re-surfacing the land costs at least £5,000 per hectare, requiring dams to retain rain water, and sluices to let it out.

Recently Fisons (now Levenson) handed 1,200 acres of former peat workings to English Nature, so that two-thirds of the total 3,500 acres of the Brue Valley are now managed by conservationists.

The transformation of the areas being restored today is dramatic. Ugly black-ridged blots on the landscape have been levelled, flooded and now, in late spring, the still waters reflect the silver birch and willow cover, save where it is rippled by the wakes of swans, coots and



The mining of 6,000-year-old peat has ravaged the Levels

ducks and their downy broods on outings.

Even now, up to 100 varieties of plants, including orchids, crowd underfoot. Rare bearded tits frolic overhead, kingfishers flash brilliantly along the rhynes (or drainage ditches), and marsh harriers, of whom only 90 pairs survive nationally, soar.

Habitats are being tailor-made here to entice even rarer species, such as bitterns (only 16 males are known in this country). Some bitterns winter on the Levels and are being encouraged to nest.

Scarcely diving water beetles and raft spiders dart in the ditches, and unusual varieties of butterfly, such as marsh fritillary and brown argus, thrive in the area. The lesser silver water beetle is exclusive to the Levels in this country.

People have lived in the Brue Valley, at least in summer, for more than 5,000 years and gave Somerset its name, "Land of the Summer People". Their houses were built above the water on wooden stilts, with raised wooden walkways between them. One, found in peat in 1970, has been dated 3,320 BC and, perhaps the oldest road in the world, is being preserved in wet conditions by English Nature. Later, Iron Age lake villages were built near Glastonbury and Meare.

It was only 50 years ago that the modern pump facilitated



The lesser silver beetle (left) is confined to Somerset and needs constant habitat protection. Above, the peat workings on Shapwick Heath are flooded to form Avalon lakes

peat digging and farming. It was nine years ago that the Somerset Wildlife Trust had the vision of what might be in the Brue Valley, with its criss-cross of drainage ditches.

"We thought these peat diggings would be ideal for a nature reserve, but were told that their destiny was to be landfill rubbish dumps, or used for grazing," says director Roger Martin. "A campaign started five years ago to persuade gardeners to use compost instead of peat caused enough anxiety for peat producers to want to put a greener face on their industry. So they asked for backing and the Avalon Marshes project was born."

"We restored a 100-acre patch of land to prove it could be done," Mr Martin says. The pilot, finished in 1993, cost just over £400,000, £250,000 of which came from the EC. Rare raised bogs of sphagnum moss survive — important because it provides an acid habitat and is a gauge of the conditions — but currently no one knows how to sow it successfully. Robin Prowse, English Nature's site manager, says the latest idea is to spin the moss in a liquidiser before scattering it. He is also growing experimental beds of different species.

The Avalon Marsh concept is also experimenting with the involvement of local people, who have forgotten how to cope with land that is wet in the winter and only suitable for grazing in the summer. A feasibility study published last October suggests help for



The peat workings on Shapwick Heath are flooded to form Avalon lakes

farmers wanting to explore fish farming, or crops such as watercress, water reed for thatch, and withies for basket ware.

Ideas for green tourism include the reconstruction of a lake village, boat trips from Glastonbury through the Brue Valley, the creation of a 60-acre recreational lake, cycle ways and study centres. Bird-watching hides are already planned.

The restoration is expected to cost £7 million. The county council has applied to the Millennium Fund for half, so that the wetland can finish the century as it started. As man helps nature to overcome man, the magic is returning to the marshes of Avalon.

CHRISTINE WEBB

Sing a churring song at twilight

Feather Report

STUDIO EDITIONS

THE NIGHTJAR is one of our most mysterious birds. You are only likely to see it at dusk, wheeling and zigzagging as it pursues moths and beetles over a lonely heath. It looks like a dark hawk, with white spots glimmering on its wings and tail. Normally it is silent as it flies, but when it is courting it will clap its wings, or make a sharp call that goes like a whipcrack through the still evening air.

Then it will settle down to singing for the night. It perches on a bush, or lengthwise along a branch, and its churring song rises and falls, audible far away, for five minutes at a time.

It feeds again in the faint light of dawn. It has a very wide gape so that the moths just glide into its gullet, but it also has a little fringe of bristles to protect its eyes against collisions with hefty flying cockchafers.

By daybreak it has gone down to the ground, where it lies perfectly camouflaged in its streaky browns and creams among the dead bracken. If it wants to preen, it begins to move slowly, swaying like a scrap of vegetation in the wind so that no sudden action draws attention to it. If it is alarmed, it slowly shrinks into a bird



The nightjar's nestlings have been compared to "black, silky toads"

of cigar shape. It makes its nest on the bare ground, laying two blotchy eggs.

Occasionally you become aware of one on the ground in front of you, your eyes slowly distinguishing its strange features from its surroundings. But you are more likely to flush it. Then it will fly up into a tree, stretching itself along the branch again so that it is as

inconspicuous as possible. One observer

er who disturbed a nightjar while it was brooding its newly hatched young described the nestlings as like "wet, black, silky toads".

The nightjar has acquired wonderful names. "Fenn owl" is one of the most apt. "Goatsucker" reflects the superstitions that cling to it — it was thought to steal goats' milk at night.

In some of all their tricks for camouflaging

notice, nightjars have declined in numbers in recent years. Much of our heathland has gone under the plough or become overgrown. However, nightjars also nest in woodland glades, and they have prospered in young conifer plantations, and in the spaces left where pines and firs have recently been felled. There are now several thousand pairs summering here.

At Minsmere, in Suffolk, experiments have been carried out in increasing the amount of bare ground in suitable habitats, and there has been a distinct rise in the numbers of nightjars. In fact, a pub landlord in a village inland from Minsmere told me not long ago: "I often stand at the back door at closing time, having a nightjar and hearing a nightjar." He is a lucky man to be able to do that.

DERWENT MAY

What's about Birds — look out for great crested grebe young riding on their parents' backs. Twisters — Terek sandpiper at Breydon Water, Norfolk. Frigatebird over Skomer Island, Dyfed; adult: summer Ross's gull at Seaton Carew, Cleveland. Details from Birdline 0891 702222. Calls cost 40p a minute. Phone 0891 702222. All other calls

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... plus, where to find rustic comfort in Autun, which guidebooks to take and a haven for families near Paris

Warm to the mill's tale

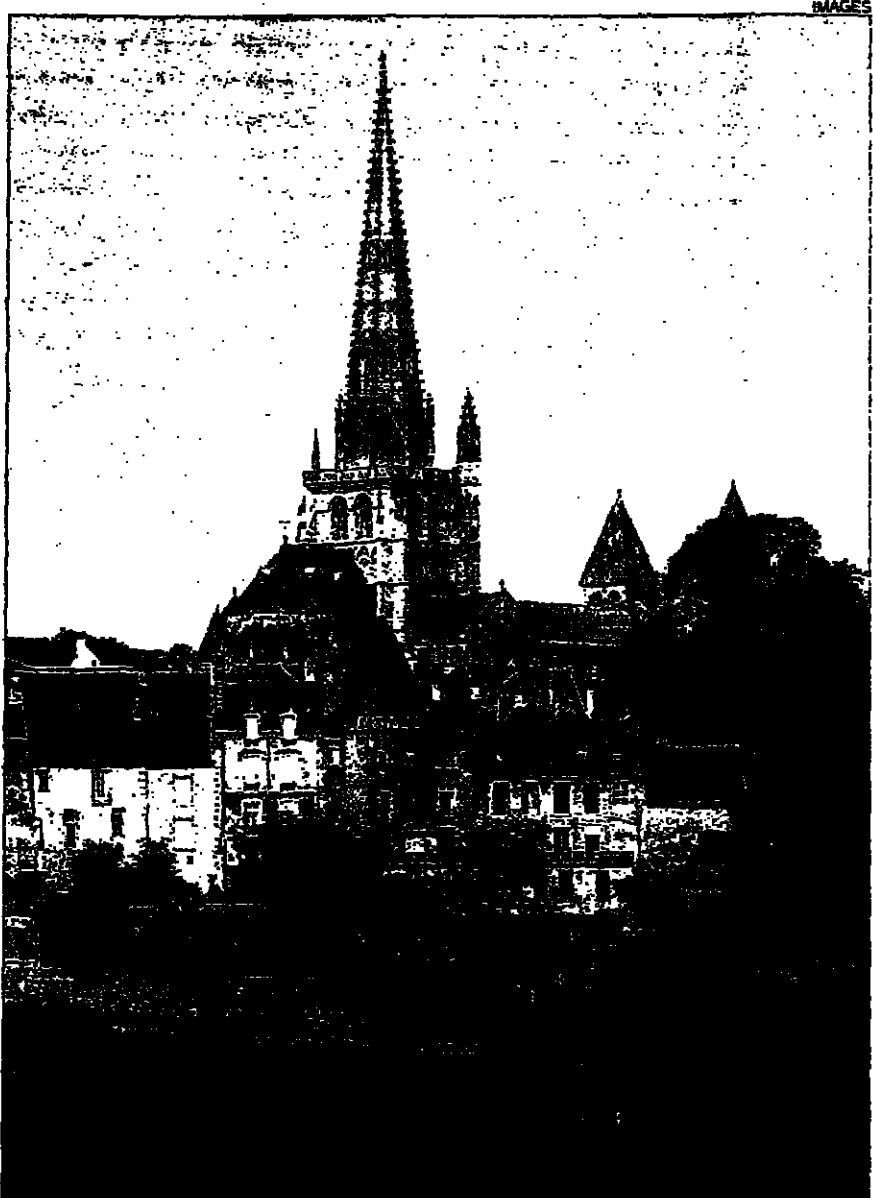
Autun guards the western approach to the Côte d'Or, where the great Burgundies come from. If you are coming from Normandy (for example, by way of Brittany Ferries to Quistreham), and heading south, you can take the Autoroute de l'Ouest towards Paris, and sheer off on the A71 autoroute, which runs down from Paris through Orléans and the Sologne forests to Bourges into the Auvergne. Then you approach the heart of Burgundy, with its great Romanesque churches, its vineyards and its villages which all look like locations for *Clochemerie* or *Jour de Fête*, through the Morvan. This is a secluded, peaceful region of small, rolling hills, rising to 2000ft at Mont Beuvray: cattle country.

Autun was the Roman *Augustodunum* and, amazingly, as you approach the town you are confronted by a perfectly preserved, full-sized Roman gateway. Just before you reach it, take a sharp right down a lane and you will have arrived at the Vieux Moulin (RS 52 10 90).

As any old mill ought to be, it is a rambling pile of buildings, straddling the millrace, bright with geraniums. Vegetable gardens surround it, which are watched over by the owner's big but friendly dogs: she is forthcoming too, and the hotel and restaurant are spotless.

Although the mill is right on the edge of the town, and an easy walking distance from the town square with its cathedral and its handsome classical lycée, it sits in the middle of fields of browsing cattle, and in its own grounds stands another Roman building, perhaps a small temple.

Dinner is served in a big dining room with windows looking out on to these fields. The rooms are pleasantly cluttered, with old brass and vintage farm instruments. The service is efficient, the food excellent: I have rarely had better *foie gras*. Only two forks in Michelin, not a risotto, but on our two visits the food was well within range of star



Autun, the gateway to the Côte d'Or, has its own well-preserved Roman entrance

quality, and the atmosphere exceptionally relaxing and pleasant, with good Burgundy that was not overpriced.

There are 16 bedrooms at the mill. They are simple, but have bathrooms and plenty of hot water. After a long drive, a stroll round an unspoilt *sous-préfecture* town, a kir and a good dinner, with the pleasures of Beaune, Vezeley, Tournus and Chigny ahead, you will sleep well. In the morning you can lean over the bridge and look at the trout before setting off. And you could not have had a better introduction to my favourite French province.

GODFREY HODGSON

A Euro Disney for parents

When the cult of Disney has done to your child's mind what the cult of Lenin aimed to do to the average Soviet child's — "I love Mickey Mouse, mummy and daddy" — then the pressure to go to a certain theme park near Paris is not easy to resist.

In the end, it is not just the endless badgering that works, it's the all-too-obvious recognition that the children will enjoy it so much, even if they realise that you hate it.

The answer, I can tell the confirmed Euro Disney sceptic, the normal rational person afraid of going soft in the head, is to limit the dosage.

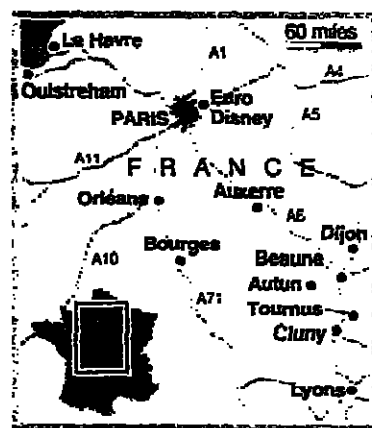
"All right, we can go for two days, but we're not staying there," I heard myself saying. The only experience I had of accommodation in the vicinity of Euro Disney, which is, after all, to Paris what Basingstoke is to London, was the Sofitel at Charles de Gaulle airport. Not ideal for children.

Into which scenario came the notion of a newly opened reconstructed farmhouse hotel called Le Manoir de Gressy 20 minutes from Charles de Gaulle and 20 minutes from Euro Disney.

During the week this 90-room four-star hotel is filled with airport business, conferences and other "suits" paying between Fr750 (£99) and Fr950 (£117) a night for a room and breakfast.

At the weekends, like many business hotels, it is virtually empty, so the Manoir is now offering weekend packages of only Fr900 (£110) a couple a night including breakfast and dinner. Children under 12 sleeping in their parents' room can stay free of charge and will only have to pay for dinner.

The test of a business hotel trying to attract a weekend family business is whether it can change gear. The Manoir is the sort of place where, once



the electronic gates have obligingly swept open, the receptionist seems to stand to attention as you walk in. You automatically lower your voice to preserve the tranquillity, just as the children shout: "Look daddy, there's the swimming pool," before beginning the 100-metre sprint across the beautiful stone-flagged hall that had looked so restful seconds before.

I felt that one of us had made a serious mistake and, in an even quieter

voice asked: "You do allow children here, don't you?"

In fact, there were other families and children, and the staff adapted remarkably well, knowing when to whip away the long-stemmed claret glass and to bring out a tumbler.

I did not go into Paris while I was at the Manoir. Although you can cycle 30km down the path that runs alongside the Canal de l'Ource into the centre of the city, I imagine that the drive — or half hour on the train — is a bit far for the average weekend city visitor.

For Euro Disney, though, it was ideal. I had been astonished when I asked the hotel reception for details on getting to Euro Disney, for, instead of being given the ready-printed forms, I waited while several members of staff huddled round a map and worked out the best route for me — as if it was the first time anyone had asked.

In fact, you are practically at Euro Disney before you see a signpost. It is five minutes' drive from the Manoir to the A104 La Francilienne — the French version of the M25 but without the jams — a few junctions and 15 minutes later you turn off into Euro Disney's ambitiously large car park.

To find moving walkways extending far beyond the cars which occupied only a corner of the car park boded well for the Euro Disney sceptic. Inside, however, it was far from empty, and the most popular rides still had 30-minute queues. Heaven knows what it would be like if the car park were ever full.

I found Euro Disney a bit like Christmas shopping: you know it has to be done and you fear the worst; but once you enter into the spirit it is, in fact, surprisingly good fun.

GRAHAM DUFFILL

Fact file

□ Graham Duffill and his family were guests of Le Manoir de Gressy, 77410 Gressy en France (00 431 602668 00; fax 00 431 60264546).

□ The weekend package is Fr900 (£110) for two people for a minimum of two nights in one room including breakfast and dinner. Family suites are also available.

The best of the French guidebooks

book, in which he urges readers to explore the minor by-ways, yellow or white on the map, and to live by his motto: "The more you run the risk of getting lost the more certain you are of seeing the real France."

A companion volume, *France-wise* (also £5.99), offers details of 350 hotels and restaurants where Binns and his reader-inspectors have found value-for-money quality cooking. All

have at least one menu under Fr165 (about £22).

Readers who buy both books direct from Mr Binns (Honeywood House, Avon Dassett, Leamington Spa, CV33 0AH) are not charged postage, and will receive a complimentary pocket *Glossary of French Menu Terms*.

Alastair Sawday's *Guide to French Bed & Breakfast* (£11.95, from Alastair Sawday Publishing, 44 Ambra Vale

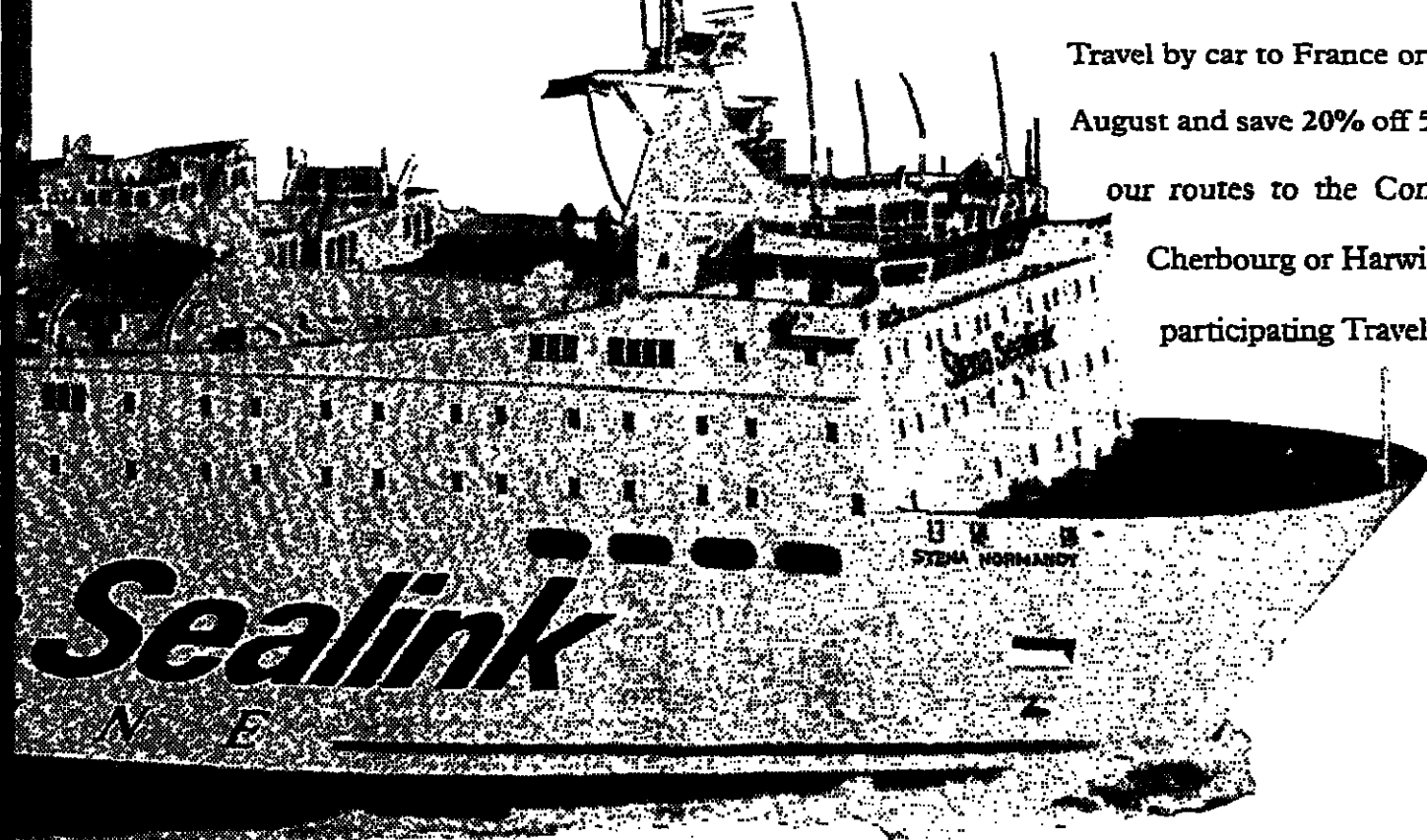
East, Clifton, BS8 4RE), may help with finding accommodation. The second edition details more than 500 French homes, all with "something special" to recommend them. An alternative, less attractively presented but cheaper, is *Bed & Breakfast (France)*, the guide of the French B&B Association, listing 430 classified and inspected B&Bs, at £3.50. It comes from PO Box 66, Bell Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 1XS. Add 50p p&p if ordering direct.

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TRAVEL

21

ORKNEY: Go for the scuba diving, angling, or just to catch your breath — there are 70 islands to choose from

Take a step back into the Stone Age

Picture a sandwich of sea and sky filled with an island flat as a bannock, fringed with golden beaches, some deserted, some jammed end to end with seals basking in the sunshine. This is North Ronaldsay, the most northerly of the Orkney islands.

On the shoreline, be prepared for a close encounter of a Neolithic kind, for this is the home of Orkney's seaweed-eating sheep, the purebred descendants of the original Stone Age stock. Confined to the beach by a wall that encircles the 14-mile coastline, these sheep are unlike any other breed.

For example, faced with an obstacle, a merino sheep will find a way round, a Dartmoor will sit down and wait for it to go away, but a North Ronaldsay will fix it with a defiant stare and charge full tilt. Wild as the wind, they stampede around the shoreline, silhouetted against huge waves crashing at their feet. At high tide they huddle against the wall then, as it ebbs they head towards the water, leaping from rock to rock to find the choicest morsels of seaweed and bladderwrack.

Orkney is a place to catch your breath. There are 70 islands to explore, each with its own attractions. Subaqua sport thrives in Scapa Flow, where you can dive among the wrecks of Germany's First World War fleet; anglers have seven lochs to choose from; and, if you feel in need of company, you can find a welcome in the inns of Kirkwall and Stromness.

The story of the islands is told in a time-capsule of stone that spans 5,000 years. Neolithic villages, Viking palaces, brochs (or towers), burial chambers and mysterious



The door of St Magnus

stone circles dot the landscape. On South Ronaldsay I strapped on knee and knuckle pads to crawl inside a Stone Age burial chamber, and was given a tour around a Pictish farmhouse fitted with the mod cons that the Bronze Age could offer: indoor running water, a fitted flagstone floor and tiny stone box-beds. "They were the same size as us," explained my guide. "But they slept sitting up, since lying down was thought to tempt providence."

Who or what the ancients worshipped we will never know, but you are never far from a place where they once bent their heads in prayer. Orkney converted to Christianity in 995, but the ruined Celtic monasteries predate this by 500 years. Orphir has Scotland's only round church, and on the Isle of Lambholm are two Neolithic huts transformed into a beautiful chapel by Italian POWs during the Second World War. Finally, there is Orkney's

pride and joy, St Magnus' Cathedral, a rose-red sandstone gem made by the masons who built Durham. In 995 Orkney belonged to Norway, and last weekend Orkadians and Norwegians celebrated, at a service in St Magnus, 1,000 years after the Norwegian king, Olaf Trygvassen, anchored at Kirkwall Bay in the Pentland Firth and persuaded the ruler of Orkney, Earl Sigurd, to convert to Christianity. In the same bay, under grey skies, two ships — one with Orkney representatives, the other Norwegian — took part in a re-enactment of the event.

For the romantically inclined, Balfour Castle offers a special service. Guests can be married in the family chapel before retiring to the bridal suite. This is Orkney's only country-house hotel, a Victorian Scottish baronial pile on Shapinsay, half an hour by ferry from Kirkwall.

Balfour Castle still has its original furnishings and fittings, bought in 1848 on the first owner's honeymoon in Italy. It was here that an unfinished staircase inspired Robert Louis Stevenson to write the spine-tingling scene in *Kidnapped* where Ebenezer sends his nephew on an ascent to certain death. Stevenson repaid his host's hospitality by naming his hero David Balfour. At the other end of Shapinsay is a humble cottage, the birthplace of the father of Washington Irving, who wrote a variation on an old Orkney legend and called it *Rip Van Winkle*.

Orkney is not for everyone. I'm told that the glamorous presenter of a television holiday programme went into shock when told she would have to walk a mile to the sea stack featured in her film.



The Orkney islands offer golden beaches which, if not deserted, are jammed end to end with basking seals

While many of Orkney's attractions can be reached by car, others require a little effort.

The path to the Broch of Deerness begins with the spectacle of the Gloop, a chasm big enough to sink a skyscraper. It then cuts across a wide expanse of moor before plunging down a vertical cliff to sea level and then up an even more

perilous ascent to the tiny cliff-top fort. It was a raw, chilly day, with sullen skies and horizontal rain but, snug in the shelter of the broch's stout walls, I drank in the view, and took time to ponder life — just as the first inhabitants must have done, 2,000 years ago.

ROS DRINKWATER

Fact file

□ The author was a guest of the Orkney Tourist Board, Broad Street, Kirkwall (01856 872536).

□ How to get there: British Airways flies from Heathrow to Kirkwall via Aberdeen return from £189. BA and Loganair fly daily to Kirkwall (except Sundays) from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.

P&O Ferries (01547 894180) operates a daily ro-ro car ferry from Scrabster in Stromness. (Return fare £77 per car; passengers £27).

ScotRail stations are at Thurso and Wick. You may have to change trains at Inverness.

□ Where to stay: Kirkwall is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Britain, and the Albert Hotel is in the heart of the conservation area. Double B&B £75. Single £46 (01556 576000; fax 01556 573379).

Stromness — The Ferry Inn is the social hub of the town. Doubles from £25 (01856 890284; fax 01556 711253).

Shapinsay — Balfour Castle. Double B&B and dinner. £68 (01556 711252; fax 01556 711253).

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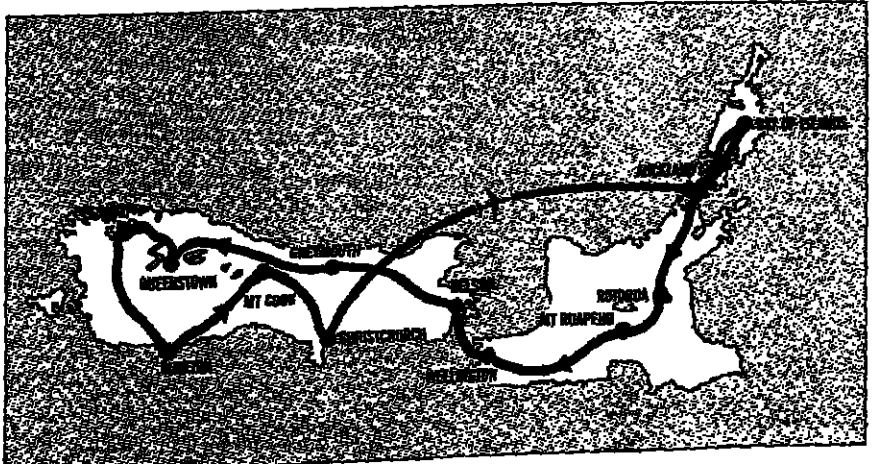
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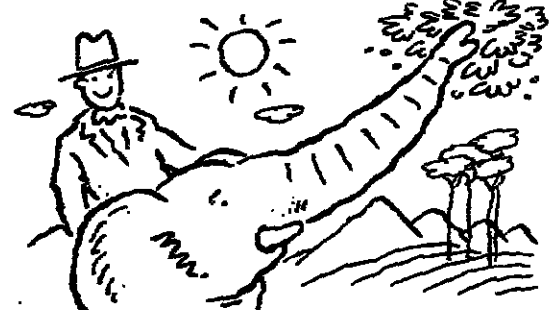
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TRAVEL

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You can enjoy a week's holiday in high quality self-catering timeshare apartments at one of 30 to 40 RCI affiliated resorts. Prices start from £125 per person, including return flights from Gatwick to Malaga and Faro. Departures from Manchester and other airports are also available at a supplement.

The winter months are a good time to take a relaxing break on the Costa del Sol or the Algarve since daily temperatures during November to March can range from 16C to 20C.

Resort facilities typically include a swimming pool, health club, shop, restaurant and bar plus daytime activities and evening entertainment. These resorts are ideal for families.

Some resorts cater

particularly for golfers and have their own courses, while offering reduced green fees at championship courses nearby.

The holidays will be arranged by RCI, which offers a full travel service to thousands of UK timeshare members. The accommodation comprises studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments. The apartments are located at resorts which are part of RCI's network of more than 2,800 affiliated resorts around the world where RCI's timeshare owning members can take exchange holidays.

WHAT IT COSTS

For seven nights self-catering based on two guests sharing a one-bedroom apartment (which can sleep four) prices start from £155 per person. For four people sharing a two-bedroom apartment (which can sleep six) prices start from £140 per person, with reductions applicable depending on the number of people in the apartment. For example, a family of four taking a one-bedroom



Relaxing on the Algarve: the facilities at RCI resorts cater for all the family

apartment in Malaga (with the children using sofa beds in the sitting room) for seven nights in the first three weeks of December, would pay £125 per person, a total of £500. Two people staying in a one-bedroom apartment in the Algarve in March would pay £175 each, a total of £350. At some resorts there will be an additional charge for utilities of about £12.

The flights are in chartered 757s, 737 or 737-400 aircraft with Monarch, Viking and Caledonian airlines. For a special up-grade supplement you can fly on a British Airways scheduled service in Euro Traveller Class or Club Europe.

Excellent car rental rates are available through Avis, starting from just £63 for a week in Portugal in a Fiat Uno or similar, inclusive of collision damage waiver, theft protection, insurance and local taxes.

Over 100,000 British families now own timeshare apartments. You may wish to find out more about holiday ownership during your stay by taking the option of attending a sales presentation.

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Costa del Sol and to Faro for the Algarve depart from Gatwick on Saturdays and Sundays. Flights to Malaga on Fridays are also available through British Airways. There are supplements from other airports, for example, £10 per person from Manchester.

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FOR BROCHURE CALL 01622 72877

by Raymond Keene

IN THE wake of Gary Kasparov's revenge victory against the Pentium, Gekko, and the program, it was announced in Hong Kong, during the annual computer chess championships, that the human world champion will now face a chess computer challenge.

On this occasion the opponent will be the world's most powerful chessplaying computer, IBM's Deep Blue. The Association for Computing Machinery, which is sponsoring the competition, has reached an agreement with Kasparov, who has been given a month in Philadelphia to prepare for a match in Philadelphia on September 10. The match will consist of six games and the prize fund will be \$2,000,000.

Deep Blue program will be enhanced by the use of a powerful new chess chip. By employing a large number of these chips working in parallel, the IBM team hope to create a chess machine more than 100 times faster than the current version, which was widely regarded as the world's strongest and was favourite to win the title in Hong Kong. This could mean that the program Kasparov faces will be analysing an astounding 10 million positions per second.

Still, IBM may have much work to do. In Hong Kong, far from winning the championship, Deep Blue suffered a setback against the Fritz program, which runs on a home PC's 90MHz Pentium of the kind you can buy in a department store.

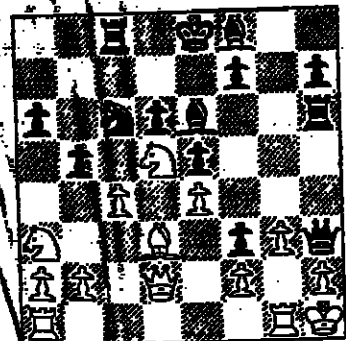
White: Deep Blue, Black: Fritz
World Computer Chess Championship
Hong Kong, May 1995
Sicilian Defence

1	g4	e5	2	Nf3	Nc6
3	g5	exd4	4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	e5	6	Nd5	exd5
7	Bg5	exd5	8	Nc3	b5
9	Bxf6	gxf6	10	Nd5	b5
11	Bd3	Bd6	12	Qe2	Qe7
13	0-0	Rg8	14	Kf1	Rg8
15	Qd1				

Deep Blue fails to recognise the danger that emanates from Fritz's kingside attack.

15 Rf3 16 e4 Qh4
17 g3 Qh5 18 Qd2

(18 Rg1 fails to 18... Qxh2 Kh6 21 Qxh5 Rh5- 21 Kg2 Bh3- 22 Kg3 Nd4 mate.)
18... 23 Rg1 Rh6



23 Qxh5 Qxh6. The game is practically over.
24 Nb5 Bxh5 22 ends Nb4 23 Bf5 Rf6. Black has to overcome some slight counterplay on the queen's side, but once this has been negated, its material advantage will evidently become overwhelming.

24	bxc6	25	Nc2	Qd2
25	Rd1	26	Rd5	Qxh2
28	Bd4	29	Rg2	Qd3
29	Rd1	30	Qh5	Kd8
32	Qd3	33	Rc2	Rc5

As a general rule, when materially ahead it is sound policy to trade pieces.

34 Rf5 Nxc5 35 Rf1 Rf7
36 Rf1 Nxc4 37 Qd4 Qxh4
38 Rf1 Nxc4 39 Bf4 Qxh4

White resigns. The IBM team had recognised that there was no way back on their heavy losses of material.

After this, a play-off for first place was necessary and Fritz had another monster machine to face. Star 50-ones from the US, which runs on parallel computer containing 424 processors and over 30 gigabytes of memory. The machine itself is 30 ft long and weighs 9 or ten tons. But Fritz, which has single Pentium processor and thousands times less memory, showed no fear, demolishing its opponent in a sharp tactical struggle.

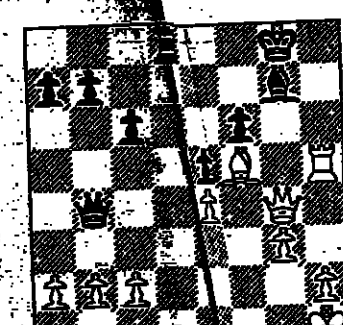
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Petrosian - Moldageljev, USSR 1970. Here White has the chance to force a quick checkmate. Can you spot the key first move?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

last week's solution: 1... Qg4

Last week's winners: R H Ashworth, Wimbledon; J M Bacon, Cottingham; J Vokulic, Southampton; J Vokulic, Southampton.



READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the French Library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with the winning caption selected from those submitted.

Send your caption suggestions, on a postcard please, to:

Cartoon Caption 62, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, June 21.



"What do you mean? It's no longer a sin"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by the Rev C. Tymms of Gainford, Darlington



By Philip Howard

CLINOMANIA

a. Love of nurses

b. Fear of mountains

c. Lying in bed

HARMATOLOGY

a. Dealing with sin

b. Restitutive justice

c. Search for origins

CURMUDGEON

a. A cream and fruit fool

b. Helmsman of a trimmer

c. Grumpy codger

PARONOMASIA

a. Slander

b. Panning

c. A mauve rock plant

Answers on page 18

COMPUTER GAMES

CD-i format lends itself far better to television, hows than to films.

This is the last call for Cyberspace Fifteen which closes at midnight on Tuesday, June 20. It is open to all ages, and to enter you must tell us what humorous message you would put on a Times Data Link watch belonging to John Major, Tony Blair or Paddy Ashdown (or all three).

The best three entries will win a Times Data Link watch, worth £120, which, with a Microsoft Windows programme, stores up to 70 entries, including some direct from your PC. The watch is water resistant and features an Indigo night-light.

Send your entries, including your name, age, address and telephone number, to: Cyberspace Fifteen, Computer Games, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. You may also fax entries to us on 0171-729 6791. The judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

TIM WAPSHOTT

Merlin's Apprentice and Tim and Bear at the Airport are CD-i titles for youngsters. Merlin is an awkward American import, but Tim and Bear has magical moments as an electronic story and colouring book dotted with interactivity.

As with SimCity and Sim2000, Peter Gabriel's Xplore 1 on CD-i is a rock album with visual trickery. The third series of Rik Mayall's *New Statesman*, however, comes on a three-disc set and proves two things - that the series was genuinely funny and that the

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doodle-it-yourself screen-saver.

by Robert Sheehan

THE Bermuda Bowl is the World Championship event for Open teams and the Venice Cup is the equivalent event for women. They will be played later this year in Peking.

Teams qualify for these two events by playing in Zonal Championships. The toughest of these is the European Championship, sponsored this year by the Generali Insurance Company. In the past 20 years the British women have won the European three times, and the Venice Cup twice. In that period, the Open team has won the European once, and come second in the Bermuda Bowl once.

The European involves two weeks of play, and starts today in Vilamoura, Portugal. *The Times* will be carrying a daily report in the Sports section of the paper.

I have mentioned several times before Weak Two openings. While not forbidden in rubber bridge it is not usual to play them in that form of the game. However, it is difficult to report any international event (or tournaments, come to that) without from time to time having to deal with them, so I give a brief description here.

First, here is a hand featuring a Weak Two.

Dealer West Love All IMP's

AK10 KQ98 5 AK876

73 432 432 432

Q8862 A107 K87 995

W N E S

2s Wests 10s Easts

2s Dole 3s 4s

Pass 6s All Pass

Contract: Six Spades by South.

Lead: ace of diamonds.

The hand was played in this year's Cap Votrac Pairs tournament (won by Zia Mahmood and Michael Rosenberg). Zia's Two Diamond opening bid was a typical Weak Two - a reasonable six-card suit and 7 high-card points.

North's Double was for take-out - the most effective use of the bid. If you have a penalty double of a Weak Two, you just have to pass and hope that your partner can re-open with a double, which you can then pass.

Rosenberg's raise to Three Diamonds was pre-emptive. It could have been made on a variety of hands. Zia was not allowed to bid again. After you have opened a Weak Two, in the vast majority of cases you should leave all further action to your partner, as you would after other pre-emptive openings.

The puzzle is how did Leifkens, a member of the Dutch team which won the Bermuda Bowl in 1993,

manage to go down in Six Spades after the lead of the ace of diamonds? It looks as though he must make five tricks in spades, four in hearts, the king of diamonds and two clubs. And there is a diamond ruff available if he doesn't want to risk all on the heart break.

Might the declarer have played East for four hearts, and so finesse the ten allowing West to make the jack? No - the declarer will find out that East has two spades and five clubs, and as he is marked with three diamonds from his raise, it follows that the hearts will be breaking - East must be 2-3-3-5. Still perplexed? The details are given at the end of the column.

Weak Twos can be thought of as a cross between a poor opening bid and a mini pre-empt. Classically they show a decent six-card suit and about 6-10 points. For example:

*KQ10842 *Q82 *53 *42

is a near minimum weak Two Spades. And:

*AQ10843 *K4 *J3 *1063

is a maximum weak Two Spades. Some players would open this One Spade although, in my opinion, it is better to pass if you are not playing Weak Twos.

An important feature of a Weak Two is that the high cards should be concentrated in the long suit, and the hand should not have much potential in another suit. For example:

*A87632 *QJ104 *63 *44

should not be opened Two Spades, as the hand is playable in hearts. In fact, poor suits headed by the ace are a strong counter-indication for opening a Weak Two - the hand will frequently play well in another strain, and in addition will have good defensive prospects against opponents' contracts.

Third-in-hand the requirements can be relaxed considerably. With

*4 *KJ1063 *10852 *943

it is reasonable to open Two Hearts at a favourable vulnerability after two passes.

Now back to the hand on which Leifkens went down in Six Spades. What happened was that at trick two Zia continued with a low diamond. Now consider declarer's problem. If he ruffs with the ten of spades, he may not be able to pick up 10xx with East. So what is he to discard from dummy? Provided the clubs are no worse than 4-2 (about an 84 per cent chance, ignoring the bidding) he will always be able to establish a club for his twelfth trick. So he discarded a heart, and now after drawing trumps could no longer make the contract when the clubs broke badly. To give him his due, when Zia described the hand to me he did not claim to have foreseen the effect of his diamond continuation.

No. 3310: TMESIS By Fawley

HALF the lights of each length from 6 to 12 letters are real words but, in a break with tradition, the word or sequence of words comprising their definition, taken as a whole, interrupts the cryptic part of the clue, rather than appearing at either end. The rest of these lights each consist of one word inside another; their clues contain, in any order, but not overlapping, definitions of both words, and a cryptic indication of the light taken as a whole. Clues to 3-, 4- and 5-letter lights contain definitions of whole words and cryptic indications of them with one letter removed for diagram entry. These sixteen letters, in clue order, spell out an appropriate colloquial "word", not in Chambers, which is nevertheless recommended.

1. People unfortunately scammed religious symbols of Easter (12)
2. Surviving, having to overcome endless profligate waste (11)
3. Saw team getting awared? (4)
4. One making an effort to absorb a craft continued (10)
5. Framework set up to come down again if one leaves? (7)
6. Award a subordinate almost presented to student of local American instrument (9)
7. Horse depicted by a respected artist (3)
8. Prophet from Aegean island (4)
9. Smaller shows up in tennis 1 cent (5)
10. Reaping driver to spray in lock? (12)
11. Town-dweller prevalent over in Spain - the natural synonym (6)
12. Count of American war-zone in disarray (6)

Solution to No. 3307: Across the Divide by Phi

The "divide" was formed by the Straits of Gibraltar. Brewer's implication that the GIBRALTAR side, STRAITS CALPE, is dedicated to HERCULES, while, in Algeria, MOUNT HACHO (formerly ABYLA), is dedicated to ASTARTE.

1. ROSE: YMAOIST: VAMMOOSE.
2. IN FLIGHT: BIBELLOT.
3. READER: CAUSALLY.
4. READER: CAUSALLY.
5. READER: CAUSALLY.
6. READER: CAUSALLY.
7. READER: CAUSALLY.
8. READER: CAUSALLY.
9. READER: CAUSALLY.
10. READER: CAUSALLY.
11. READER: CAUSALLY.
12. READER: CAUSALLY.

Colours: 1. ROSE: YMAOIST: VAMMOOSE. 2. IN FLIGHT: BIBELLOT. 3. READER: CAUSALLY. 4. READER: CAUSALLY. 5. READER: CAUSALLY. 6. READER: CAUSALLY. 7. READER: CAUSALLY. 8. READER: CAUSALLY. 9. READER: CAUSALLY. 10. READER: CAUSALLY. 11. READER: CAUSALLY. 12. READER: CAUSALLY.

13. Large bird covered in grease, one shivering, lay low at first (7)
14. Second-rate cleric caught by tabloid finished corrupt (10)
15. Faces out in stone frieze - half by novice (4)
16. Try a little chat, perhaps, about unfinished shelf (9)
17. An animal returns fund greeting out of turn (5)
18. A nameless element, which doesn't support life (4)
19. Film once respected choice I made to replace last of serum in case of poisoning? (8)
20. Falling about, bristly drunk hides in bishop's office (6)
21. One over the eight, a couple slipped on wet clothes at home (7)
22. Show small change, please, quoting odds (3)
23. Eats up the distance, in classic fashion (4)
24. Fellow leaves capital as a Scottish herald (3)
25. One stalks back - the object's a conflict (6)
26. Knowing the price - the figure of 50p still possible? (8)
27. Mature in Latin and 16, perhaps? (5)
28. Short fat queen was sitting about (4)
29. Drivers make serious demands of the leader (5)
30. A silly error on boarding transport system (4)
31. English once more show spirit? (4)
32. Become bored with a beard (3)
33. Boeing left base after overhaul (7)
34. Admit aim P.O. derided - to open less (6)
35. Watches some episodes, holding most of anger back (6)
36. Fools abandon capital originally sunk into phone system (11)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
O	I	S	T	V	A	O	O	S	E	M	A
E	L	T	I	N	F	L	I	T	B	I	B
R	E	A	D	S	T	C	S	A	L	L	I
I	N	G	A	C	E	L	E	T	A	I	L
R	S	E	L	E	R	S	R	I	C	E	A
T	N	S	E	A	T	E	R	C	Q	U	E
C	U	E	R	Y	O	V	E	A	U	L	S
A	T	E	C	A	N	I	S	R	I	L	G
L	T	R	U	M	E	R	I	O	N	S	E
P	E	D	R	E	O	U	S	E	C	H	I
E	R	G	A	N	G	S	T	R	E	E	L

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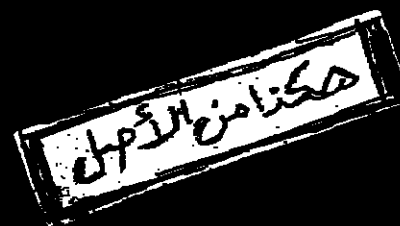
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Customer Information Programme. NatWest supplies customers with a wide range of services. From time to time, we may use any of your personal details to decide whether to tell you about them. If you do not wish to receive this information, please tick this box. ☐

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Credit is only available to persons aged 18 or over and is subject to status and conditions. Mortgage loans are available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited, 41 Louthbury, London EC2P 2BP. Security and insurance are required. Written quotations are available on request from National Westminster Bank Plc, Registered Office 41 Louthbury, London EC2P 2BP or from any branch. Representative Example: A couple (male and female), both non-smokers aged 25, applying for an Endowment mortgage of £50,000 against a property valued at £57,000 over 25 years (300 months). Initial monthly payments of £291.25 gross, £265.04 net. Monthly endowment premium £7.62. The total amount payable would be £137,871.20 gross, including £98.70 valuation fee, £117.50 estimated legal fees, £30.00 remittance fee and £250 arrangement fee at an interest rate of 6.99% 7.3% APR. We have calculated this example on the basis that interest will be charged on the same fixed rate for the full term of the mortgage. In fact this fixed rate is only until 31 July 1997. After that the mortgage must be repaid at the variable NatWest Mortgage Rate until 31 July 1999. After this date you may decide to remain on the NatWest Mortgage Rate for the rest of the term or we may agree a new rate which is likely to be different to this fixed rate offer. There will be a charge if at any time prior to the end of 31 July 1997 you wish to repay the whole or any part of your mortgage, or want to transfer your mortgage to another arrangement available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited. At the end of the fixed rate period the interest rate will revert to the variable NatWest Mortgage Rate current at that time. There will be a charge if at any time prior to the end of 31 July 1999 you wish to repay the whole or any part of your mortgage, or want to transfer your mortgage to another arrangement available from National Westminster Home Loans Limited. The charge will either be calculated on the basis of a charge equal to 3 months' additional gross interest on the amount of the mortgage repaid, or 3 months' additional gross interest on the amount outstanding on the mortgage when you request to change to a new mortgage arrangement. If you simultaneously redeem and complete a new mortgage on a fresh property with National Westminster Home Loans Limited on the same fixed rate terms as the original mortgage at any time prior to the end of 31 July 1999, the charge will be refunded unless the new mortgage is for an amount which is less than the original mortgage. In this case the charge will be apportioned and the calculation will be based on the amount of the original mortgage redeemed. Details correct at time of going to print. *Cashback, bonus or commission. In qualifying cases £400 cashback offer the mortgage application must be received at any branch of National Westminster Bank Plc in the UK between 1 June and 31 July 1995. The £400 cashback cheque will be despatched within 28 days after the mortgage loan is drawn down. If you repay all of your mortgage on or before 31 December 1999 you must repay up to the £400 cashback amount received in addition to any other charge payable by you on early repayment of your mortgage. Only one application per person qualifies for the offer. Not more than one cheque for £400 is available per mortgage application. The offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other cashback offer. This offer is not available to customers who are not moving property within the period of this offer. The promoter is National Westminster Home Loans Limited 41 Louthbury, London EC2P 2BP. National Westminster Bank Plc is a Member of the NatWest Life and Mortgages Group, and can advise on the life assurance, pensions and unit trust products only of that Marketing Group, and is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IMRO. Registered Number 926227 England. The 'Your Mortgage' award was judged by an independent panel of 20,000 mortgage holders.